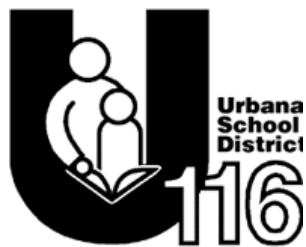


While not representing ALL the concepts and skills we teach, these are the performance indicators we are committing to teach for MASTERY at each level. These skills build on those previously mastered and lay the foundation for learning in later schooling and throughout life. We expect that every student will demonstrate mastery of these skills. We will gather sufficient evidence to provide proof of their learning, and communicate their performance with students and families.



Parents'/Guardians' Guide to First Grade

This guide provides an overview of what your student will learn by the end of first grade. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in each of the different subject areas, which will build a strong foundation for success as your child progresses through school. The student outcomes outlined in this document reflect the Illinois Learning Standards as they are published at this time, which includes incorporating the Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. As the Illinois Learning Standards undergo revision to reflect the development of new standards in additional subjects, our curriculum will also be revised to support additions or changes to the Illinois Learning Standards. If your child is meeting these end-of-the-year expectations, he or she should be well prepared for the next level of schooling.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents/guardians, and teachers; build a child's knowledge and skills; and help set high goals for all students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed.

How Can I Help My Child?

Use this guide to help build a relationship with your child's teacher. Talk regularly with his or her teacher about how your child is doing.

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting your child in meeting them. Work with your child's teacher to identify opportunities for additional learning or ways you can support your child in their schooling.

This Guide Includes:

- An overview of some of the key concepts and skills your child will learn in first grade.
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her progress.

Preface and support material adapted from "Parents' Guide to Student Success" published by the National Parent-Teacher Association

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English/Language Arts: In first grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. Your child will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and will be able to sound out more complex words. Your child will also learn to think about what he or she reads and talk about the main ideas of simple stories and informational books. As your child writes and speaks, he or she will learn to use language appropriately; this includes using complete sentences and spelling simple words with increasing accuracy.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

Reading

- Applying grade-level phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading (and writing)
- Reading First Grade High Frequency Words
- Asking and answering questions about key details and main ideas in a story or informational text
- Describing characters, settings, major events, or lessons in a story using key details
- Gathering facts and information from different sources, including using various text features such as headings, table of contents, glossaries, illustrations, and icons
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used
- Making connections between events, details, ideas and pieces of information between two texts on the same topic.
- Checking their own understanding
- Reading aloud text at grade level with accuracy and fluency so as to support comprehension

Writing

- Writing on a topic providing an introduction, some facts, and a sense of closure using appropriate writing conventions (capitalization, end marks, commas).
- Applying grade level self-editing criteria (capitalization, end marks, commas)
- Participating in shared research and writing projects (with adult guidance and support)
 - Generate questions for investigation
 - Record observations
 - Sort and categorize information (graphs, charts, pictures)

Speaking and Listening

- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by
 - Responding appropriately to statements and questions
 - Contributing relevant, appropriate information to conversations and discussions
 - Asking questions to clear up any confusion

Language

- Adapting language and speaking/listening behaviors to different situations
- Describing people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and with complete sentences
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations
- Using grade-level grammar and mechanics
 - Nouns and verbs in simple sentences
 - Upper- and lower-case letters
 - Capitalize dates and names of people;
 - Uses end marks; commas in dates and separating single words in sentences
 - Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns, and spell untaught words phonetically

Mathematics: Your child will build on the number sense acquired in kindergarten and improve speed and accuracy adding and subtracting numbers within the range of 0 – 20. Another important goal in first grade is to build a solid understanding of place value in order to add numbers with a sum of 100 or less. Your child will work with multi-digit addition this year to set the stage for working with larger numbers in 2nd grade.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

Critical Focus Areas: developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20; developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones; developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units; and reasoning about attributes of, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes.

- Developing strategies for addition and subtraction using properties of addition (commutative and associative) and fact families; addition and subtraction as inverse operations
- Mastering addition facts for totals up to 20 and the corresponding subtraction facts; quickly and accurately adding and subtracting within 20
- Representing and solving word problems involving addition and subtraction (within 20 and up to three whole numbers)
- Understanding place value (ones and tens)
 - Group in 10s and 1s

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- Order and compare numbers and represent magnitude on a number line
- Model part/whole, adding to, taking away from, and comparing situations
- Using understanding of place value and operations to add and subtract
- Measuring lengths indirectly and by repeating lengths units
- Telling time in hours and half-hours
- Organizing, representing and interpreting data with up to three categories in a graph or pictograph
- Reasoning with shapes and their attributes
 - Compose and decompose solid and plane figures
 - Develop understanding of part-whole relationships ($\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{4}$)
 - Build and draw two dimensional shapes based on their defining attributes

Science: Science instruction in first grade continues to build on your child's natural curiosity. The focus is on close observation, questioning, and data collection. Students are encouraged to think and act like scientists.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Using basic science tools (like magnifying glass, measuring tools) to collect, describe, compare and record information
- Identifying and comparing features and characteristics of Earth, moon, and sun
- Comparing and classifying land, water, air and renewable and non-renewable resources
- Describing and categorizing basic needs, structures, and life cycles of plants and animals
- Explaining how plants and animals are connected
- Describing the properties of light, sound, and matter

Social Sciences: Your child will expand their understanding about the world and their place in it. They will study broad topics like Communities and Economics, American Government and Symbols, and Geography.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Recognizing and explain the reason for rules in our society; and, identifying the roles of leadership in local, state, and national governments
- Understanding that trade or money are exchanged for goods and services; and identifying producers and consumers
- Explaining the difference between past, present, and future; and, recognizing reasons for major holidays
- Identifying physical features on a variety of maps
- Identifying similarities and differences in people's characteristics, habits and living patterns; and, understand the roles and responsibilities of individuals in groups

Physical Development/Health: The goal of physical development and health programming is physical fitness for all students. First grade students will explore the topics of fitness, wellness, teamwork, and cooperation in building a foundation of skills that will enable them to lead healthy and physically active lifestyles.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Demonstrating basic movement skills (locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative/fine motor) and distinguishing among spatial awareness concepts to problem-solve physical tasks safely, individually and within a group
- Following rules, procedures, and safety practices during physical activities
- Identifying and participating in activities fitness levels
- Demonstrating practices that promote healthy living, promote safety and prevent illness.
- Recognizing good health habits (sleep, nutrition, hygiene, relationships).
- Explaining the function of basic body parts

Fine Arts: Your child will explore the four art forms (dance, drama, music, and visual art) as a means of promoting creativity and self-expression. Students will build knowledge of the arts, arts skills, and an appreciation of the arts a means of communicating ideas and feelings related to the time in which they are created.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Recognize concepts in an individual art form
- Explore feelings, stories, and expressive ideas in the four art forms
- Observe and respond to the arts (dance, drama, music, visual art) in a respectful manner

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Social/Emotional Learning: Your child will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to recognize and manage his or her emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Recognizing different feelings and how they are linked to behavior
- Controlling impulsive behavior; practicing self-control
- Distinguishing between needs and wants
- Setting personal goals
- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Following school and classroom rules
- Accepting suggestions and opportunity for improvement

Technology: Students will apply the use of technology to solve problems, create projects, collaborate, and extend their learning in all subjects.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Using a variety of digital tools and resources to complete a variety of content-specific tasks and investigations with teacher guidance
- Using simulations and graphic organizers to deepen understanding
- Recognizing age-appropriate issues related to the use of technology and computers
- Performing basic functions on a computer like opening, closing, saving documents; using a dock; locate the power button; wake up a computer; locating letters and numbers on a keyboard



Helping your Child Learn at Home

- Try to carve out a quiet place to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on his or her studies without distractions from friends or family.
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 – 30 minutes while he or she does homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on and help you be the first to know if he or she needs help with a specific topic.
- Read with your child every day and encourage your child to read to you or others.
- Visit the library. Have your child sign up for a library card.
- Act out stories your child hears, sees, or makes up.
- Pick a “word of the day”. Have your child find things around your home or the community that begin with that same letter or sound.
- Look for “word problems” in real life.
- Compare numbers of items.
- Ask your child questions like “How many more?” or “How many are left?”
- Play number games like, “I’m thinking of a number that is greater than 11, and less than 20” or “I’m thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What number is it?”

Tips for Talking with Your Child’s Teacher

- Keep the conversation focused on a few critical areas, like:
 - using knowledge of letters and sounds to figure out how to read or spell words
 - reading grade level books and stories with understanding and fluency
 - learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from books he or she reads and listens to
 - adding and subtracting within the range of - 20
 - using understanding of place value to add and subtract
 - solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as:
 - Is this piece of work meeting the expectations?
 - Is my child on track?
 - How can I support my child in this area?
 - Are there resources outside the classroom to help his or her learning in a particular area?

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