Chickering School Learners Guide

Grade 1

By the end of first grade our students have a variety of strategies in their toolbox to help them decode and comprehend a variety of text. They are able to self-select “just right” books for independent reading based on their individual skills and learning needs. First graders write for a variety of purposes and learn to expand their thinking. Their spelling begins with phonetically based approximations and moves toward conventional spelling.

First grade students develop strong math skills within the six strands of the Massachusetts Math Framework: Number Sense and Operations; Patterns, Relations and Algebra; Geometry; Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. For example, students will use manipulatives, drawings, tally marks and numerical expression involving addition and subtraction of 1 or 2 digit numbers to equivalent names for whole numbers up to 100. Students will practice and grow measurement skills including length, temperature, and time.

As first graders, our students explore the world around them in hands on, experiential science activities. They journal the changes in the seasons in the outdoor classroom, learn about living and non-living things and experience the life cycle of butterflies in the spring. First grade students explore physical science topics using balls and ramps to explore the concept of force and motion.

In Social Studies, first grade students study basic geography in terms of continents and ordinal direction. Students learn about basic commerce, presidential responsibilities and the Pledge of Allegiance.

First grade students participate in five extended core classes per week. They focus on gross motor skills, spatial awareness and object manipulation during Physical Education. At Art class (once per week) the students focus on line exploration. Technology instruction, biweekly, reinforces math concepts and literacy skills. Music instruction in grade one focuses on pitch, notation and instruments. During Library instruction, students learn to support their thinking with evidence in what they read.

As citizens of Chickering School, our first graders learn, laugh, grow, care and make a difference. They develop good interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, such as sharing, empathy and demonstrating the ability to listen and actively participate during academic discussions.