



Grade 1

Parents' Guide to Student Success

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- An overview of some of the key things your child will learn in English/Literacy, Math, Social Studies and Science in elementary school
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn more at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her academic progress

Parents' Guide to Student Success

Grade 1

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The Parent Guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of Grade 1 in Mathematics, English Language Arts/Literacy, Social Studies and Science. This guide is based on the MA Curriculum Framework for ELA and Literacy, the MA Mathematics Framework, the MA History and Social Science Framework, and the MA Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in the standards, he or she will be well prepared for the second grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step – a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. Clearly defined goals also help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 1

- Reading stories and text, at Grade 1 complexity, with understanding
- Using grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding new words
- Describing characters, central message, setting and major events in a story, using detail
- Learning facts and information from different writings
- Identifying the main topic and retelling key ideas of an informational text
- Writing narratives, opinion pieces, and informative texts with a topic, details, and an opening and closing
- Participating in shared research and writing projects
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to comments of others
- Asking questions to clear up confusions during a topic-focused discussion
- Learning to think about finer distinctions in the meaning of near-synonyms (e.g., *marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking*)

**Talking to
Your Child's
Teacher**

Keeping the Conversation Focused

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 1, these include:

- Reading grade-level text with understanding and fluency
- Knowing and applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unknown words when reading and writing
- Learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from informational text
- Determining meaning of unknown words based on grade 1 reading and content
- Writing stories, informative texts, and opinions including a topic, details, and a sense of closure

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: What does this show about my child as a learner? Does my child need extra support or want to learn more about a subject; are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 1

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems (adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing)
- Adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly subtracting from a number 10 or less
- Understanding place value - what the digits mean in two-digit numbers
- Using place value to add or subtract
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

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- Using place value to add or subtract
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems

Science

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 1

- Describing patterns of motion between the Sun, Moon and stars in relation to the Earth
- Identifying seasonal patterns, and predicting future patterns
- Observing and describing daily weather
- Recording and predicting weather patterns and daily temperature
- Describing patterns and differences in how light and sound passes through a variety of objects
- Designing and building a device to send signals.
- Comparing the ways different animals and plants use their parts and senses
- Noticing patterns between plants and animals for classification

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- Understanding applied math skills such a thermometer changes, habitat observations and science journaling (ask teacher for his or her observations in that area)
- Reading about scientific and engineering practices; asking about books or resources that are appropriate to the grade 1 level
- Inquiring about local or regional events within the scientific community that support the child's understanding of grade 1 science and engineering concepts

Social Studies

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 1

- Identifying sequential actions, such as *first, next, last*, in stories and personal experiences
- Using correctly words and phrases related to chronology and time (e.g., *now, long ago, before, after*)
- Using correctly words and phrases that indicate location and direction (e.g., *up, down, near, far, left, right, straight, back, behind, around, in front of*)
- Describing the function of a map and globe
- Using words relating to work, such as *jobs, money, buying and selling*
- Describing events and people celebrated during United States national holidays
- Learning about American symbols such as the American flag, the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the current president
- Identifying and describing family and community members who promote the safety and welfare of children and adults
- Retelling stories that illustrate honesty, courage, friendship, respect, responsibility, and leadership

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When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 1, these include:

- Participating in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about Grade 1 topics and texts
- Demonstrating understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally by asking and answering questions about key details
- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to tell about events in the order in which they occurred
- Identifying basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic
- Writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which the student names what they are writing about and supplies some information about the topic as well as an opening and a sense of closure

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