

HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

Reading

First grade reading at Harmony School of Excellence is designed to develop comprehension and fluency, as well as enhance the desire to read. Students are introduced to several forms of literature: poetry, folklores, tall tales, plays, fiction, and non-fiction. The [McGraw-Hill Reading Series](#) (yellow books 1-5), [Rigby PM Guided Reading Program](#), [Reader's Theater](#), and various trade books expose them to reading at individual levels. Teachers also encourage and provide time for daily independent reading. Students are also expected to read every night. Our goal is to help students build confidence in reading and promote an interest in, and appreciation for, the written word.



Spelling

Students are encouraged to use rules for spelling which are taught on an ongoing basis. Students have weekly spelling lists which help expand their knowledge of phonetically based words and sight words. Teachers help them develop an awareness of phonetic patterns and word families.



Handwriting

Teachers reinforce modern manuscript letter formation through daily exercises and instruction. Students are expected to practice their handwriting both for class and homework assignments throughout the year.

Mathematics

First Graders begin to develop an understanding of basic mathematical concepts. Through manipulatives and the *Harcourt; Math Advantage* series, they explore spatial relations, work with technology, and cultivate



problem-solving techniques as part of their math experience. The basic curriculum includes skip counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's, identifying place value to 100, comparing and ordering numbers, mastering all basic addition facts and basic subtraction facts, adding and subtracting two-digit numbers without regrouping,

measurement, telling time to the half hour, calendar, counting money, geometry, fractions and graphing. In addition, Harmony School of Excellence uses the *Groundworks* program. This program focuses on the five major strands within the mathematics curriculum and provides a challenging and thought provoking way to solve problems. The areas covered within this program are: reasoning about measurement, reasoning with geometry, algebraic thinking, reasoning with data and probability, and reasoning with numbers.



[Click here for an example of *Groundworks*.](#)

Social Studies

Through interactive lessons, technology, field trips, textbooks, maps, and community centered experiences, students are able to gain an understanding of, and appreciation for, our world. The social studies curriculum begins with a focus on communities in our multicultural society. Students begin to recognize their membership, role, and responsibilities within a community. They study about the history of our country, as well as other cultures, customs, and traditions. First graders are also introduced to the concept of history and map skills.



Science

The science program in the first grade focuses on life, earth, and physical sciences with a hands-on approach to learning through a variety of interactive experiences. Students learn about topics such as plants, needs of living things, the sky, matter, force, and learning about and taking care of our bodies.

