



What Your Child Will Learn in First Grade

Greetings First Grade Parents!

In Harford County Public Schools (HCPS), we are committed to ensuring that every child graduates having received an outstanding education. We know that you as parents are integral to this process and want you to know the role that the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS) serve in the implementation of our curriculum.

How do the MCCRS relate to the Common Core State Standards?

In school year 2013-2014, Maryland implemented the MCCRS in all schools across the state. Maryland's new standards are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English language arts and mathematics, adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states. The MCCRS define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce.

What is the connection between the MCCRS and the HCPS curriculum?

The MCCRS guide HCPS instructional leaders to develop and refine curriculum so that teachers consistently create lessons that give our students the most essential knowledge and skills they need to progress academically.

What will lessons look like in the classroom?

Teachers are encouraged to create engaging and interactive lessons, integrating technology when appropriate. Our teachers provide the best environment for learning so that our children grow as learners but also gain the content and skills necessary to become productive members of our workforce and society.

How do the MCCRS affect all content areas?

The MCCRS clearly define benchmarks for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. The literacy expectations for English language arts are clearly outlined, but just as importantly, so are the expectations for literacy in all content areas. For students to be college and career ready, they must be proficient in reading and writing complex informational and technical texts. This means that instruction in EVERY classroom focuses on both the critical content as well as the reading and writing skills necessary to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of that discipline.

How can you support your child at home?

As you review this brochure, think about ways you can support your child's learning at home. We need your help as we implement our curriculum and hold students to the highest standards of academic performance. Through a strong partnership with you, we will ensure that your child is fully prepared for success in school, work, and life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension of grade level text.
- Retell key details in a text and demonstrate an understanding of the author's message.
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Ask and answer questions to clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
- Know and use various text features to locate key facts, details, and information in a text.
- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide range of text types.

Writing

- Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic, supply reasons, and include some kind of closure.
- Write informative texts that name the topic, provide facts, and give a sense of closure.
- Write narratives with two or more events that include details regarding what happened, transitional words and phrases, and a sense of closure.

Speaking and Listening

- Participate in collaborative conversations.
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.

Language

- Determine the meanings of words using context.
- Sort grade-level words into categories.

MATHEMATICS

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Add and subtract within 20 to solve word problems.
- Add three whole numbers to solve word problems.
- Use properties of operations to add and subtract.
- Add and subtract within 20 and fluently within 10.
- Understand the meaning of the equal sign and determine if equations are true.
- Find the missing number in an addition or subtraction equation.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Count to 120, starting at any number less than 120.
- Understand that the two-digits in a two-digit number represent tens and ones.
- Compare two-digit numbers using $>$, $=$, and $<$.
- Add within 100.

Measurement and Data

- Order three objects by length.
- Tell length with a whole number of units.
- Tell and write time in hours and half-hours.

Geometry

- Compose two or three-dimensional shapes to create a composite shape.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of and persevere in solving problems.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, and attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure as well as express regularity in repeated reasoning.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

SCIENCE

Construct Knowledge

- Identify and describe ways in which heat can be produced.
- Describe that some events in nature have repeating patterns.
- Compare and explain how external features of plants and animals help them survive in different environments.
- Provide evidence that all organisms are made of parts that help them carry out the basic functions of life.
- Explain that there are identifiable stages in the life cycles (growth, reproduction, and death) of plants and animals.
- Recognize that caring about the environment is an important human activity.

Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- Compare the observable properties of a variety of objects and the materials they are made of using evidence from investigations.
- Cite evidence from investigations that most things are made of parts.
- Provide evidence from investigations that things can be done to materials to change some of their properties.

Understand and Use Technology

- Raise questions about the world around them and be willing to seek answers to some of them by making careful observations and trying things out using available materials and technology.
- Design and make things with simple tools and a variety of materials.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History

- Examine differences between past and present time.
- Compare people and objects of today and long ago.

Geography

- Use geographic tools to locate and describe places on Earth.
- Describe places in the environment using geographic characteristics.
- Explain how transportation and communication link people and places by the movement of goods, messages, and people.
- Explain how people modify, protect, and adapt to their environment.

Economics

- Describe economic choices people make about goods and services.
- Describe the production process.
- Explain how technology affects the way people live, work, and play.
- Describe types of markets in the community.
- Describe how goods and services are acquired.

Political Science

- Explain the importance of rules.
- Identify and discuss the meaning of symbols and practices associated with the United States of America.
- Identify and describe people important to the American political system.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of being a participating member of the family, school and neighborhood.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

UNIFIED ARTS

Art

- Use established criteria, including the art elements and principles of design taught in Grade 1 to categorize and critique artworks.
- Identify reasons for creating artwork.
- Create artwork that explores the use of the art elements and principles of design taught in Grade 1 to express personal ideas.

Media

- Use text features and content to identify different types of literature and respond in a variety of age-appropriate ways.
- Discuss the differences between and how materials are arranged in fiction and nonfiction sections; describe proper book care and the process of book production.
- Identify an information need, locate information organized within a resource and, with assistance, records, interprets and share information in a variety of formats using his/her work.

Music

- Respond to sounds through listening, performing, reading symbols, and movement.
- Explore the relationship of music to dance, theater, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
- Participate in activities representing various cultures, holidays, and historical events.
- Create music through experimentation, improvisation, and composition.
- Evaluate musical composition using established criteria.

Physical Education

- Demonstrate an overhand throw with opposition.
- Identify the benefits of exercise on the body.
- Perform the following skills with a mature pattern: hop, gallop and skip.
- Locate one's own pulse.
- Demonstrate control while dribbling a ball with feet.

A Message from the Superintendent:

First grade is an exciting milestone for children and parents. During this important year, parents create expectations that may last throughout their children's academic journey. Please know that learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in school, beginning in the earliest of grades. Help your child practice basic math facts and look for ways to use math concepts in real life. Make time to read with your child and spend time together on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and will help you be the first to know if your child needs extra support with a specific topic. Look forward to each new school day with energy and excitement.

Barbara Canavan



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