



Middle Country Central School District

Parents Guide to Elementary Curriculum

Grade 1

By the end of their first grade year, students should acquire the following knowledge and skills. Expectations here reflect current New York State standards in each subject area:

Language Arts:

The first grade language arts program is fully aligned with the NYS Next Generation ELA Standards and the HMH Into Reading Program.

First grade teachers provide ELA instruction through integrated modules, collaborative and individual work, and student-centered learning in order to make children active, independent learners and highly literate members of society. Professional development and literacy blocks support teachers and students.

In reading, first grade students learn to identify key details, use of words, literary elements, and the central message in various types of text. Students also learn how to compare and contrast texts and identify connections between the texts and themselves. In writing, students learn to use details to effectively inform, narrate, and express opinions. They also collaborate and use a variety of resources to publish their writing, and they participate in shared research and writing projects in which they answer questions and inform others.

The following are some of this year's first grade modules:

Reading Modules

Nice to Meet You!
My Family, My Community
Amazing Animals
Better Together
Now You See It, Now You Don't
Celebrate America
The Big Outdoors
Tell Me a Story

Writing Modules

Oral Story
Descriptive Essay
Research Essay
Procedural Text
Imaginative Story
Personal Narrative
Poem
Personal Narrative

Grow, Plants, Grow
Dare to Dream

Biographical Essay
Opinion Letter

The Foundational Skills of the NYS Next Generation ELA Standards are addressed through HMH Into Reading and the research-based Wilson Foundations Program. Through the use of these resources, teachers provide students with a strong foundation in the key areas of beginning reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, word study, spelling, and fluency.

Mathematics:

The goal of the mathematics curriculum is for students to understand the concepts of and to become proficient with the skills of mathematics. Students will communicate and reason mathematically. They will become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies through the study of number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Middle Country School District Content and Process Strands, which are in alignment with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for mathematics.

Students will:

Number Sense and Operations:

- Understand the commutative property of addition
- Add and subtract within 20
- Count to 120
- Relate counting to addition and subtraction
- Name a number before, after, or between two numbers to 100
- Use the words greater, less, higher, and lower to compare numbers

Algebra

- Work with addition and subtraction equations
- Understand the meaning of an equal sign
- Understand place value
- Compare two digit numbers

Geometry

- Match shapes and parts of shapes to determine congruency
- Recognize, name, describe, create, sort, and compare two-dimensional shapes
- Compose two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Partition circles and rectangles into 2 and 4 equal shares using words and phrases to describe

Measurement and Data

- Recognize length as an attribute that can be measured and compare lengths
- Use non-standard units to measure vertical and horizontal lengths
- Informally explore the standard unit of measure, inch

- Know vocabulary and recognize coins
- Recognize the cent notation
- Use different combinations of coins to make money amounts
- Tell and write time
- Collect and record data related to a question
- Pose questions about themselves and their surroundings
- Display data in a simple pictograph or bar graph using concrete objects

Social Studies:

The ultimate goal of the social studies curriculum is for students to assume their role as responsible citizens and as active contributors to a society that is increasingly diverse, and interdependent with other nations of the world. The Middle Country social studies program is fully aligned with the standards and practices in the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework.

In first grade, students study “My Family and Other Families, Now and Long Ago.” Learning is organized around the same five units of study that organize kindergarten Social Studies— Individual Development and Cultural Identity; Civic Ideals and Practices; Geography, Humans, and the Environment; Time, Continuity, and Change; and Economic Systems. Students will examine families and develop an awareness of cultural diversity within American culture. Responsible citizenship is introduced, as well as the role of authority in making rules and laws. The students will increase their geography skills through the use of maps and directions. Family history provides the basis for examining sources of information and organizing that information. Economic terminology and principles are introduced in the context of family resources, as well as in making economic decisions.

Topics to be explored include:

- My family and other families
- How families change over time and family histories
- Individuals, events, and symbols important to American culture
- Rights and responsibilities of global citizens
- Problem solving, decision making, and conflict resolution
- Geographic tools and skills
- How people interact with and modify the environment
- Economics: needs and wants, goods and services, scarcity

Science:

In accordance with New York State Science Standards, the Middle Country Central School District emphasizes a hands-on and minds-on approach to learning. Students actively engage in the discovery process, utilizing science and engineering practices to explore scientific concepts. Experiences provide students with opportunities to interact with the natural environment in order to construct explanations about their world. This approach allows students to practice problem-solving skills, develop positive science attitudes, learn new science content, and explore how to think like scientists and engineers.

First grade units include the following:

- Scientific Inquiry: The Nature of Science
- Living Things: Animals
- Waves: Light & Sound
- Universe
- Living Things: Plants

Special Areas:

Music, Art, Health, Physical Education, and Technology are an important part of your child's educational experience. By participating in special area programs, children are introduced to the fundamentals of each specific discipline, then involved in learning situations which are applications of basic concepts. In all of them, active experiences are provided and children are encouraged to express themselves and to communicate through various subject area media.

MUSIC:

Through singing, listening and movement activities, children learn to differentiate between high and low pitches, recognize groups of metric units, respond orally to the rhythmic flow of music, determine melodic direction (up and down), express personal reaction to consonance and dissonance, begin to recognize that music consists of organized sounds and silences, and learn to distinguish between "soft" and "loud".

ART:

Emphasis is placed on eye-hand coordination and manipulation tasks. Children are asked to cut, fold, tear, paste, paint, draw, sculpt, and make crafts. Through these activities, students can communicate their concepts vis-à-vis their completed art projects.

HEALTH:

The health curriculum focuses on the whole child by analyzing physical, social and emotional well-being. Children learn to make responsible health related decisions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

The curriculum stresses personal living skills in all grades. They begin to develop a sense of the importance of cardiovascular wellness and music fitness. Movement skills are taught which deal with safety and creativity. The entire area of positive self-esteem is developed through various activities. Social emotional learning is also addressed as part of the curriculum.

TECHNOLOGY:

Our technology program is designed to support classroom academic instruction with 1:1 devices. All students are issued their own ChromeBook allowing students access anywhere they have internet access. District subscribed, web-based supplemental products support instruction across all subject areas.

MISSION:

The mission of the Middle Country Central School District is to empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be creative problem-solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly in a diverse and dynamic world.