



Mission Statement

We, the parents and staff of Council Rock Primary School, are committed to providing the challenging, nurturing environment needed for our young children to:

- Love school and learning
- Feel confident and competent
- Share, cooperate and respect rules
- Care about all people and the world around them
- Acquire substantial knowledge and skills in a variety of subjects
- Do their best every day by recognizing what they are learning and how they are learning, and be willing to question, explore and risk making mistakes

We believe:

- In celebrating the uniqueness of each child
- In meeting the needs of each child in a developmentally appropriate way
- In high expectations and continuous improvement
- In providing learning experiences that emphasize cooperation and integration
- In parents and the school working together to provide an excellent education for young children in Brighton

Social Studies

Children study the world they live in through using content from the social sciences. The social studies curriculum emphasizes problem solving, connecting personal experiences to new learning, working cooperatively, and demonstrating new knowledge through hands-on activities and projects. First graders focus on the study of families, with learning activities organized around major themes.

Social Studies units in first grade include:

Theme	Unit of Study
Interdependence	Families Today and Long Ago
Diversity	My Family and Others
Environment	Houses
Citizenship	Rights, Responsibilities, Conflict Resolution in School & Family Life

Additional units of study focus on American historical people and holidays.

Special Area Subjects

The special area subjects are regular stops along the first grade path that enrich and expand each child's experience. Physical education and music classes meet twice a cycle, library-media, health and art meet once a cycle. Extended studies is an integral part of first grade. It focuses on higher level thinking and creative problem solving.

In art, children develop an appreciation for their own creative ability. Children explore a variety of media, techniques, cultures and the history and life experiences of artists. The library program emphasizes a love of reading and skills in listening and learning how to get information. A variety of literature reinforces content in the academic program. Through movement, singing, listening and playing instruments children explore musical elements and concepts. Basic physical skills and fitness are the core of the physical education program. Lessons actively involve children in teamwork, problem solving and personal goal setting. Health education focuses on learning safe and healthy attitudes and behaviors. Children are actively involved in teamwork, problem solving and personal goal setting.



Let the Journey Begin!



First Grade Curriculum at Council Rock Primary School

In first grade each child's journey continues on the learning path at Council Rock Primary School. Children acquire knowledge, skills and behaviors that are the foundation for being a successful learner. Children of different abilities, talents, interests and backgrounds work and play together.

As the children skip, run, and walk along the path, they explore, manipulate, create, discuss and master many basic social and academic concepts and skills. They learn to be cooperative and respectful members of their classroom, to share, to be responsible for their behavior and belongings and to complete tasks. They begin to learn how to learn, using tools such as the computer and strategies such as problem solving and making connections.

In a safe and nurturing environment, each child is guided along the learning path. Follow the butterfly, and...

let the journey begin!





Language Arts

The language arts include reading, writing, listening and speaking. It is the core of the primary school program. Daily lessons in language arts are interrelated with other subject areas such as science, social studies and math. There is a strong emphasis on children's literature. Instruction matches each child's developmental level.

Reading

In learning to read, first grade children:

- Use strategies to identify words; e.g. using picture and story clues, background knowledge, rhyme and repetition, sight vocabulary and letter/sounds (phonics), and skipping a word and reading to the end of a sentence to think about what makes sense
- Recognize decoding errors and use strategies to correct themselves
- Notice punctuation when reading
- Demonstrate an increasing sight vocabulary
- Retell the beginning, middle and end of a story
- Retell stories by identifying characters, setting, and plot
- Read fiction and non-fiction text of increasing difficulty
- Demonstrate comprehension skills: state main idea and details, sequence events, draw conclusions, and make personal connections to the text

Writing

In learning to write, first grade children:

- Listen to quality literature and discuss the traits of good writing
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Write in a linear pattern, spacing words
- Write sentences
- Add details to writing
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks
- Spell simple words correctly
- Use temporary phonetic spelling as needed

Spelling

Children learn spelling rules and generalizations that help them spell (and read) unknown words. Spelling lists are developed around phonics elements, spelling patterns and high frequency words. Some words need to be memorized. Children are provided with daily opportunities for independent practice.

Handwriting

The handwriting program uses the D'Nealian form of manuscript.

In learning handwriting, first grade children:

- Recognize and form numbers and upper and lowercase letters
- Use spacing for letters and words
- Establish hand dominance
- Develop proper pencil grip and posture
- Follow a left to right progression

Listening and Speaking

Learning to listen requires children to attend and to understand what is said. Children demonstrate listening skills when they can follow directions and can retell what they have heard. Learning to speak means knowing when to speak, using appropriate language, volume and tone, and being able to speak to a purpose. In first grade, children learn to express ideas and feelings in complete sentences using appropriate language and to listen when others are talking.

Mathematics

In first grade, children are developing mathematical concepts such as problem solving, number sense & number relationships, geometry, and data collection & analysis. Children have numerous experiences to support the development of a variety of strategies for solving mathematical problems and promoting flexible thinking. Students learn to use a variety of materials to support the development of mathematical thinking. These include counting cubes, a 100 chart and other manipulatives, pencil and paper, and calculators among others. Children have a variety of experiences that support their developing ability to communicate their thinking in math using pictures, numbers, and words.

In learning mathematics, first grade children:

- Use numerical relationships ($>$, $<$, $=$, \neq)
- Read and write 2-digit numbers
- Describe and apply problem solving strategies (using pictures, numbers and words)
- Use whole numbers (count by 1's, 5's, 10's, 2's, 4's)
- Put numbers together and take them apart (addition & subtraction)
- Collect and sort and categorize data
- Develop vocabulary for describing 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Visualize and represent 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Estimate and measure with standard and non-standard units
- Use a calendar to measure time; tell time to the hour and half hour on an analog clock
- Count money using penny, nickel, and dime
- Use graphs to communicate information

Details of the First Grade math curriculum are specified on the school district's K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Map.

Science

First grade science activities engage children in the exploration of their physical and living world. Children observe and record observations, ask questions, make predictions and describe what they learn.

Science units in first grade include:

Properties of materials
From Seed to Plant
Earthworms
Measurement



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