

Parents' Guide to Student Success in *English Language Arts* First 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. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

Here Are Some Things Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Learning and memorizing sight/high frequency words
- Phonics skills: blending, segmenting, short vowels, long vowels, consonant blends (sl, bl, tr, dr, cl, st), digraphs (sh, th, ch, wh, ph)
- Grammar (nouns, verbs, adjectives)
- Writing in complete sentences with proper punctuation
- Asking and answering questions about stories and informational texts
- Retelling stories and identifying the main idea of informational texts
- Comparing and contrasting stories and texts
- Writing stories, informational texts, & opinion pieces
- Enhancing their vocabulary



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 First Grade, these include:

- Phonics Skills
- Sight words
- Comprehension
- Writing

Help Your Child Learn at Home

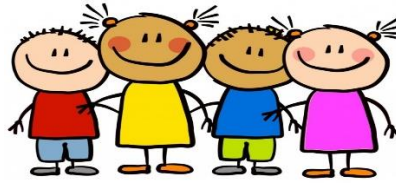
Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Read to and/or with your child daily.
- Have your child write about what they have read.
- Utilize a word of the day/week to enhance vocabulary.
- Practice sight words daily using flashcards.

Resource: <http://www.pta.org/parents/>

First Grade

Nine Week Checkpoints for Parents and Students



Helpful Websites	
www.i-ready.com www.myon.com www.readworks.org	
First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions about key details in a text • Identify all sounds in a word • Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words • Blend and read CVC words and words with consonant blends • Read taught sight words • Write narrative stories 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell stories • Demonstrate an understanding of the central message, lesson, or moral of a story • Identify the main topic of a text • Retell key details of a text • Blend and read CVC words and words with consonant blends • Blend and read consonant digraphs (sh, th, ch, wh, ph) • Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words • Read taught sight words • Write informational reports/essays
Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story • Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text • Blend and read CVC words and words with consonant blends and digraphs • Know final -e and common vowel team spellings for representing long vowel sounds (ai, ay, ee, ea, ie, igh, ow, ou, oo) • Read taught sight words • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories • Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic • Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables • Read words with inflectional endings (ing, er, ed, est) • Fluently read grade level texts • Write narratives, informational reports/essays, and opinion pieces