



Mehlvilleville School District

Individually Focused. Committed to All.

Parent/Student/Family
Curriculum Handbook

First Grade

2023 - 2024



Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Families of the Mehlville School District:

The Curriculum Department is pleased to present you with the Mehlville School District Parent/Student/Family Curriculum Handbook. This handbook has been developed to help you understand what children should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level in each subject area.

This handbook is revised annually and includes Board-approved curriculum revisions to help meet the identified educational objectives for your child's grade level. Our teachers, principals and directors have provided suggestions for families to enhance and assist with your child's learning. We hope this handbook is helpful to you in having meaningful discussions with your child and your child's teacher about the curriculum being taught in their classroom.

Mehlville teachers and administrators work diligently to provide the best education possible for your children. We appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve in such a wonderful community. If you have any questions or comments regarding curriculum, feel free to contact your teacher, principal, curriculum directors (listed in the *Acknowledgements* section at the back of this book), or me. We welcome your thoughts and appreciate hearing from you.

The Mehlville School District provides educational opportunities for students and families from birth through adulthood. We are very proud to serve thousands of families beginning with our Parents as Teachers Program (PAT), Early Childhood Program, K-12 Programs, and our Community Education Program. It is our hope these important programs enhance the quality of life for all district patrons.

To access the handbook online, please go to www.mehlvilleschooldistrict.com, click on *Curriculum*, then *Handbooks*. We are happy to provide hard copies for families that prefer them over online access. Please take a few moments to look at the handbook and feel free to let us know your thoughts regarding the prepared documents.

The Mehlville Board of Education, Central Office Team, Principals, Curriculum Directors, Teachers and Support Personnel all wish you and your child a successful school year.

Sincerely,

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English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum for First Grade is a balanced literacy approach that includes reading to, with, and by students. It also includes writing for, with, and by students. This is accomplished by fostering phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, word solving using meaning, structure and visual cues, and sharing what is read and written through the whole group, flexible group, and individual instruction in a print-rich environment. The needs of the students are determined by initial and on-going assessment, and then met by using a variety of instructional strategies including direct instruction, guided practice, individual practice, cooperative learning and hands-on activities.

Course Objectives:

- apply grade level decoding strategies to read fluently and comprehend a range of texts at grade level
- retell the key ideas and details, determine the main idea and supporting details, and describe story elements
- determine meaning of unknown words and phrases the author uses in a text choosing from a variety of strategies and will use grade appropriate vocabulary when writing and speaking
- read grade appropriate sight words and will read one syllable words by segmenting and blending sounds
- write opinion, narrative, and informative pieces for a variety of audiences and purposes using grade level structure and craft
- develop and strengthen their writing by following a writing process with guidance and support from peers and adults
- demonstrate and apply the command of Standard English grammar and usage when reading, writing, or speaking
- utilize technology to research information, collaborate with peers, publish writing, and to present knowledge and ideas
- engage in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade one topics and texts using grade appropriate discussion protocols and will apply listening comprehension to information presented in diverse media

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- reading and writing with them daily
- discussing stories and ideas with the child daily
- practicing spelling and vocabulary words daily
- assisting the child in communicating in a positive way
- providing a home library with a variety of reading materials

English Language Development for Newcomers K-5

English Language Development for Newcomers instruction is for non-native English speakers with a beginning level of English proficiency. The instruction is designed to support English language acquisition in the areas of social language and academic language. Students will practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Newcomers receiving additional English language development instruction will build a strong foundation in language in order to acclimate to the American school system and culture.

Course Objectives

Multilingual learners will...

- learn and engage in social language needed to participate in a school setting
- learn and engage in academic language needed to participate in a school setting
- develop basic spoken English vocabulary by participating in simple conversations
- apply listening comprehension to information presented in diverse media
- develop basic concepts of communication through viewing and representing language

Parents/Families may assist their children by engaging in any of these activities in their home language:

- making sure they know their birthday, address and phone number
- nurturing their language through conversation and reading
- exploring a variety of books together through reading, discussing, labeling pictures, and retelling stories
- joining them in singing songs or chants, playing games, counting objects, and identifying letters in their environment
- providing art supplies and writing materials: pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, and blank paper to draw and write
- exploring the community: stores, zoo, park, mall, public library and talking about these activities
- giving them numerous opportunities to interact with peers
- encouraging them to write notes, letters, lists, and signs
- checking for daily communication from school
- asking them about their school day
- requesting an interpreter as needed

English Language Development First Grade

Mehlville School District Department of English Language Development services develop multilingual and multiliterate students who actively participate in the community.

Course Objectives:

The language expectation for multilingual learners is to use social and academic language in all content areas.

Multilingual learners will...

Social and Instructional Language

Narrate

- Share ideas about one's own and others' lived experiences and previous learning
- Connect stories with images and representations to add meaning
- Ask questions about what others have shared
- Recount and restate ideas
- Discuss how stories might end or next steps

Inform

- Define and classify objects or concepts
- Describe characteristics, patterns, or behavior
- Describe parts and wholes
- Sort, clarify, and summarize ideas
- Summarize information from interaction with others and from learning experiences

Explain

- Share initial thinking with others
- Follow and describe cycles in diagrams, steps in procedures, or causes and effects
- Compare and contrast objects or concepts
- Offer ideas and suggestions
- Act on feedback to revise understandings of how or why something works

Argue

- Ask questions about others' opinions
- Support own opinions with reasons
- Clarify and elaborate ideas based on feedback
- Defend change in one's own thinking
- Revise one's own opinions based on new information

Language for Language Arts

Narrate

- Identifying a central message from key details
- Identifying how character attributes and actions contribute to an event
- Identifying words and phrases that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses
- Orient audience to story
- Develop story events
- Engage and adjust for audience

Inform

- Identifying main topic and/or entity and key details
- Asking and answering questions about descriptions of attributes and characteristics
- Identifying word choices in relation to topic or content area
- Introduce and define topic and/or entity for audience
- Describe attributes and characteristics with facts, definitions, and relevant details

Language for Mathematics

Inform

- Identifying concept or entity
- Describing attributes and characteristics
- Define or classify concept or entity
- Describe a concept or entity
- Compare/contrast concepts or entities

Language for Science

Inform

- Determining what text is about
- Defining or classifying concept or entity
- Introduce others to topic or entity
- Define, describe, and classify concept, topic, or entity
- Summarize observations or factual information

Explain

- Defining investigable questions or simple design problems based on observations and data about a phenomenon
- Analyzing several events and observations to help explain how or why a phenomenon occurs
- Identifying information from observations (that supports particular points in explanations)
- Describe observations and/or data about a phenomenon
- Relate how a series of events causes something to happen
- Compare multiple solutions to a problem

Language for Social Studies

Inform

- Determining topic associated with compelling or supporting questions
- Defining and classifying attributes, characteristics, and qualities in relevant information
- Introduce topic associated with compelling or supporting questions
- Provide details about disciplinary ideas

Argue

- Identifying topic
- Analyzing evidence gathered from source
- Evaluating source based on distinctions between fact and opinion
- Introduce topic
- Select relevant information to support claim with evidence
- Show relationship between claim and evidence, and reasoning

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- making sure they know their address and phone number
- nurturing their languages in addition to English through conversation and reading
- exploring a variety of books together through reading, discussing, labeling pictures, and retelling stories
- joining them in singing songs or chants, playing games, counting objects, and identifying letters in their environment
- providing art supplies and writing materials: pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, and blank paper to draw and write
- exploring the community: stores, zoo, park, mall, public library and talking about these activities
- giving them numerous opportunities to interact with peers
- encouraging them to write notes, letters, lists, and signs
- checking for daily communication from school
- asking them about their school day
- requesting an interpreter as needed

Gifted (STRETCH)

The primary grade level gifted curriculum incorporates the core curricular areas as an instrumental foundation. Activities are designed to introduce the students in kindergarten through third grade to higher level thinking skills, problem solving techniques, creativity, research skills, and to promote understanding of self, others and the world.

In order to correctly identify as many gifted students as possible, a uniform multi-criteria screening process is necessary. The following battery of tests and inventories is used in accordance with state guidelines to determine eligibility for gifted education:

- Ability Tests
- Achievement Tests
- Creativity Tests
- Parent and teacher surveys of student behaviors and characteristics

Course Description:

- apply research skills to develop a knowledge base for use in product development
- utilize at least one of the higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and/or evaluation
- demonstrate the necessary skills to recognize and solve a problem
- exhibit the creative thinking skills of fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration in written, oral and/or visual presentations
- gain self-awareness and develop interpersonal skills

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- using their questions and expressions of interest as guides into further learning and exploration
- providing opportunities that can spark interest
- visiting museums, art galleries, educational institutions and historical places
- opening their world to encompass as many and varied experiences as possible
- encouraging them to take a chance on a new activity
- helping them understand that it's okay to make mistakes
- stimulating and widening their minds through suitable experiences with books, recreation, travel, games and the arts
- being an advocate for them

Recommended reading for parents:

- *Guiding the Gifted Child* by James T. Webb, Ph.D., Elizabeth Meckstroth, M.S.W. and Stephanie S. Tolan, M.A.
- *When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers* by Jim Delisle, Ph.D. and Judy Galbraith, M.A.
- *Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom* by Susan Winebrenner

Guidance & Counseling

Mehlville School District Guidance and Counseling activities for students in the first grade will consist of experiences in the areas of learning skills, making decisions, understanding and getting along with others, understanding and accepting self, personal responsibilities and career awareness.

Assessment includes counselor/ teacher/student observations, classroom activities and verbal/written quizzes.

Course Objectives:

- demonstrate appropriate listening behaviors
- demonstrate knowledge of a decision-making process
- demonstrate knowledge of how to resolve conflicts and get along with others
- demonstrate the ability to identify feelings
- demonstrate understanding of personal responsibilities
- demonstrate knowledge of career opportunities

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- discussing problems and concerns with the school counselor
- encouraging them to seek advice and assistance from the counselor
- modeling appropriate behaviors
- discussing and demonstrating the need for school rules

Health

The first grade health curriculum will cover a variety of health topics leading to the knowledge and skills important to living a healthy life.

Assessment includes the anecdotal records of teacher observations of student skills and performances. Paper and pencil assessments are given in some cases.

Course Objectives:

- describe the five senses and their functions
- state three reasons why regular physical and dental examinations are important
- identify the major food groups
- identify the differences between communicable and non-communicable diseases
- give one reason why immunizations are important
- identify characteristics of a stranger and three potential dangers in everyday situations
- identify medicines used to treat or prevent health problems and identify safe and unsafe drugs
- identify and describe basic structures and functions of the cardiovascular system

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- discussing strategies to avoid acceptance of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs
- mixing ingredients when cooking
- having them plan healthy meals
- teaching them good eating habits
- talking to them about good nutrition

Please see page 14 of this handbook for information on related websites.

Library Media

First grade students will build on their skills in independent use of the Library Media Center, focusing on book care, literature enrichment and expanding circulation procedures.

Assessment includes librarian and teacher observations of student skills and performances. Teacher-assigned projects are used as assessments.

Course Objectives:

- find, evaluate, and select appropriate sources to answer questions
- apply an understanding of fiction and nonfiction information and ideas
- develop as a self-motivated reader
- recognize patterns and relationships such as front and back cover, spine, title page and spine label
- identify and discuss story elements, structures of text, and patterns of language
- participate in discussions of stories using higher-level thinking skills
- abide by the Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Resources

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- visiting the library with them
- reading with them
- encouraging responsibility by seeing that books are returned on time
- helping them select age-appropriate books

Mathematics

Mathematics is designed to provide a classroom environment where the beginning learner develops number sense in everyday life by applying mathematical processes, reasoning, and problem-solving strategies. This is an integrated program that provides instruction in mathematical concepts. The topics covered include: developing number sense up to 120, addition and subtraction within 20, geometric shapes, place value, measurement, and data. The student will move through concrete models to pictorial representation, to abstract representation of mathematical concepts with an emphasis on problem solving and reasoning.

Course Objectives:

- make sense of problems and persevere, reason abstractly and quantitatively, model with mathematics, use tools strategically, attend to precision, make use of structure, look for and make use of repeated reasoning, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others when solving problems
- represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction
- understand and apply properties of operations and relationship between addition and subtraction
- add and subtract within 20
- work with addition and subtraction equations
- extend the counting sequence
- understand place value
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units
- tell and write time
- represent and interpret data
- reason with shapes and their attributes

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- using real money
- dividing candy equally among family members
- playing cards or board games
- playing math games used at school

Music

In First Grade Music, students broaden their musical knowledge and skills through the artistic processes of creating, performing, responding to, and connecting with music. Students engage in a variety of artistic mediums including singing, playing instruments, moving, reading, and listening.

Course Objectives:

- The student will conceive and develop new musical ideas and work.
- The student will realize artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.
- The student will understand and evaluate how the arts convey meaning.
- The student will relate artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- singing with them
- listening to them sing
- encouraging them to move to the beat of the music
- listening to a variety of music in the home/car
- providing opportunities to experience and/or participate in music outside the home
- discussing appropriate audience behavior at various musical events
- attending their school performances
- playing instruments together at home (ex - drum, kazoo, bucket)

Physical Education

1st Grade Physical Education develops students' concepts of fitness and health through activities, games, and collaborative discussion. PE develops locomotor and non-locomotor skills, manipulative skills, and rhythmic movement to support active play and exercise.

Course Objectives:

- The student will begin to connect physical activity to being healthy.
- The student will demonstrate locomotor skills and develop manipulative skills in physical activities and games.
- The student will use basic fitness terminology and be introduced to fitness concepts.
- The student will demonstrate personal responsibility by following teacher directions, safety expectations, and class routines in social and physical activities, including skills practice and games, with teacher support.
- The student will actively participate in daily class fitness objectives and routines, including exercises, games, and skill development, to build the components of health and skill-related fitness, with teacher support.

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- going on a walk with them
- involving them in at least one sport of their interest
- sending proper shoes to school for P.E.
- exercising with them
- reinforcing cooperative spirit and fair play

Remedial Reading Services

Remedial reading services are offered to eligible students at each elementary building in the Mehlville School District. Reading services are supplemental to classroom reading instruction. Reading Specialists provide remedial reading groups for grades K-3 and grades 4-5 if space allows.

Children are referred for remedial reading services by their classroom teachers. After permission to evaluate is received from the parent, the Reading Specialist administers an individual reading assessment to the student. Based on the results of the assessment, children may be eligible for remedial reading services. Parents are notified of assessment results and children are placed in the reading program as appropriate. Children who participate in remedial reading programs are reassessed at the end of each school year to evaluate progress and determine eligibility for the following school year. Parents are notified of their child's assessment results and eligibility for the following school year in May.

Science

The First Grade student will be studying about space systems (patterns and cycles), structure, function, and information processing, as well as waves, light, and sound. In addition, the students will utilize the science and engineering practices by asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, and analyzing and interpreting data. The teacher will use a hands-on, minds-on approach to actively engage the students in constructing and revising their understanding of these concepts.

Course Objectives:

- understand that they can observe, describe, and predict patterns in space systems
- understand that animals and plants have structures and behaviors that help them survive and grow
- observe that there can be similarities and differences between offspring and their parents
- understand that sound can travel through vibration
- understand how light travels

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- making collections of things found in nature (leaves, bugs, etc.)
- taking trips to the St. Louis Zoo, Magic House, Science Center, Botanical Gardens, Butterfly House, etc.
- planting and observing a plant or garden
- reading books about animals and their offspring and pointing out the similarities and differences

Social Studies

The First Grade student will gain an understanding of our school and community, both past and present. First Grade Social Studies develops an awareness of community in the larger context as a segue into learning how the past impacts the present..

Course Objectives:

- The student will discuss the changing nature of rules and laws and the role they play in safety and maintaining order in our school and community.
- The student will define good citizenship in our school and community.
- The student will model production and consumption as they relate to our school and community.
- The student will read and create maps for multiple purposes.
- The student will identify the physical and human characteristics within our community.
- The student will recognize the diversity of our community.

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- reviewing their address, city, state, and country and locate on a map, emphasizing general map features
- helping to increase their awareness of community helpers and what they do for us
- discussing responsibilities expected in your family and community
- locating on a map the residence of family and other familiar figures

Special Education

Special School District (SSD) provides special education and related services for students with educational disabilities in the Mehlville School District.

In collaboration with partner districts, Special School District provides technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed to ensure the student's successful contribution to our community.

If you suspect that your child may have an educational disability and require an evaluation for special education, you should contact your child's teacher, school counselor, or principal.

Technology Literacy

The first grade technology literacy curriculum will introduce students to computer basics, provide experiences in a variety of other technologies and promote responsible use of technology.

Assessment includes teacher observations of student skills. Teacher-assigned projects are used to assess the technology literacy curriculum.

Course Objectives:

- use a mouse and keyboard
- identify the parts of a computer
- demonstrate the proper care and use of computers
- locate letters, numbers, and special keys/buttons for the purpose of word processing words and sentences
- use technology tools to demonstrate basic operations and concepts involving computer applications, hardware and software
- explore Internet Web sites in a teacher-led session
- demonstrate positive ethical and social behaviors including compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy while using technology

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- providing computer and software materials
- providing appropriate supervision
- supporting the school's efforts to improve technical equipment
- investing in educational software programs

Visual Arts

In First Grade Visual Arts, the student will develop their creative ability and explore different art media, such as drawing, painting and collage, sculpture and printmaking. The students will be exposed to famous artworks from history and other cultures as well as learn skills in interpreting and discussing works of art.

Course Objectives:

- Create - The student will have opportunities to play, investigate, acquire skills and interact with art materials and art processes.
- Perform - The student will be able to select, analyze, explain and share art experiences.
- Respond - The student will be able to perceive, analyze, interpret and evaluate works of art and their art experiences.
- Connect - The student will be able to connect art work to their own personal lives or the lives of others.

Parents/Families may assist their children by:

- Making coloring important and providing blank paper and coloring books along with crayons and markers
- Visiting the Art Museum and partaking in programs designed for young children
- Checkin out art books written for young children from the library
- Encouraging creativity and providing a place for children to work and explore building with different materials

Websites to Help Your Child Continuing Learning at Home

Prior to publication of this document, each site below was checked for appropriateness. The Mehlville School District is not responsible for any content or advertisements housed/published on these sites.

District Purchased: Log In through Class Link

Discovery Education

Videos, articles, and content for all subject areas.

i-Ready

Math & ELA practice through student individualized "My Path" or digital math games.

NewsELA

Large content of authentic and accessible articles to support/enhance curriculum and engage learners. Articles available across multiple reading levels.

Reading A-Z

Leveled books for reading instruction at all ages K-5.

Scholastic Learn at Home

Activities & projects to keep kids reading, thinking and growing.

World Book Online

Online reading resources

Typing Club (Grades 3-5)

Touch typing practice and instruction for kids

Free Online Sites

[Epic!](#)

Online reading resources. Videos, read to me books, Ebooks, leveled books, and more available to support reading instruction.

[Khan Academy](#)

Standards-aligned, student-paced instruction in math and social studies.

[GoNoodle](#)

Brain break videos for children that include: movement, academic, Social Emotional Learning, mindfulness, and more!

[Kids Health](#)

Resources for teaching health and safety. Students can access information without logging in.

[Scratch](#)

Coding website. You can use scratch to create stories, games, and animations.

[Code.Org](#)

Coding website dedicated to bringing computer science skills to all learners

World Book Online Web

World Book Online, a grade-appropriate research tool that includes encyclopedias, multimedia, eBooks, and primary source databases, is available to Mehlville students both at school and at home. The online reference tool developed by education experts also includes a time-line builder, citation builder, individual research

accounts, a translation tool generating content in thirty languages, text-to-speech feature, video tutorials, interactive activities, magazine articles, newspapers and the following databases:

- World Book Kids – encyclopedia for elementary school students age 7 and up
- World Book Student – encyclopedia for middle school and high school students age 11 and up
- World Book Advanced – encyclopedia for high school and college students age 13 and up
- Living Green – online interactive site that examines causes of pollution and offers tips on green practices
- Early Peoples – online interactive site that examines history of ancient cultures
- Inventions and Discoveries – online, interactive site that examines inventions and discoveries
- Dramatic Learning – uses plays, skits and monologues to help students become more fluent readers and help them understand core concepts and retain information
- Early World of Learning – narrated stories, interactive games and reference materials to help young learners

To Access World Book Online:

- Go to <http://mehlilleschooldistrict.com>
- Select *Parents/Students*
- Select *Library Resources*
- Go to *World Book Online*

World Newspapers:

Located on the upper left side of the World Book Advanced home page is Research Tools. Within the Research Tools is World Newspapers which provides newspapers from the United States and around the world.

To access a newspaper:

- Select *World Newspapers* on the World Book Advanced home page
- Choose a location from around the world
- Click *GO*