



WISSAHICKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary Curriculum Information for Parents

Grade 1

First Grade is an exciting time for students. There are multiple learning opportunities offered throughout the school day with a strong emphasis on developing the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

The classroom schedules have been designed to create large, uninterrupted blocks of instructional time; in addition, the 30-minute, "Practice, Intervention and Enrichment", known as PIE time, will allow for further differentiation and individualization of instruction for all students. Our K-5 schools follow a 12-day rotation cycle for the Encore classes, which includes Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Library, and School Counseling. Recess is a time when our students take a break from learning in the classroom in order to engage in more informal interactions with their peers. Recess supports the development of social skills and the overall health and well-being of our students. During this time, students engage in unstructured play and make choices, develop rules for play, and practice important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, being a good sport, cooperating, listening to others, and solving conflicts.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program in Wissahickon is an intensive exploration of oral, visual, and technological communication. In first grade, students follow the language and literacy framework, which provides a structure to help students construct meaning in their lives through reading and writing. Skills taught in first grade include:

- Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print;
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes);
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words;
- Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension;
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text;
- Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text;
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details;
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories;
- Read and comprehend literature on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information;
- Write an opinion with reasons related to the opinion;
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events;
- Demonstrate a grade appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Practice the correct formation of manuscript letters and apply in their writing.

Wissahickon uses *Wonders*, by McGraw-Hill, as the core English-Language Arts program. Using a rich range of diverse print and digital media, *Wonders* provides the instructional support and materials to teach the rigor, intent, and depth of the Pennsylvania Core Standards.



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MATHEMATICS

The Wissahickon Mathematics program is a dynamic curriculum integrating the computation, problem-solving, and the use of manipulatives and mathematical tools. Students in first grade are taught the following concepts:

- Use place-value concepts to represent amounts of tens and ones and to compare two digit numbers;
- Add and subtract within 100;
- Distinguish between two and three-dimensional shapes;
- Understand fractions to partition shapes into halves and quarters;
- Tell and write time to the nearest half hour;
- Interpret data using tables/charts

As the core Mathematics program, Wissahickon uses the *Everyday Math 4*, developed at the University of Chicago. To help develop students' mathematics fact fluency, the district currently subscribes to *First in Math*, a web-based program that encourages students to practice basic mathematics facts while also honing their problem-solving skills.

ENCORE SUBJECTS

First grade students also study Art, Health and Physical Education, Library, and Music. Additionally, all students have the opportunity to work with our School Counselor as they develop their academic, career, and social skills. Students attend these encore classes on a weekly basis.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in first grade will be engaged in a study of their place in the community and world with a focus on history, geography, economics, and civics and government. Students will learn about topics such as: *Rules and Laws, Where People Live, We Love Our Country, Our Changing World, Meeting People, and The Marketplace*. During Social Studies, students are engaged in classroom discussions, simulations and explorations, research, digital learning, literature selections, as well as reading and writing assignments.

SCIENCE

Wissahickon first graders study a Science curriculum based on three hands-on kits: Weather, Sound, and Collecting and Examining Life. During these explorations, students act as scientists following the scientific process, making hypotheses, and testing their conjectures. They revise their thinking based on experiments, collecting and organizing data, and then analyzing that data to develop new understandings. It is an inquiry-based program supplemented by both related literature and informational texts.