



# **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Curriculum Night**

September 22, 2016

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Curriculum Overview
3. Research Studies
4. Reading and Writing
5. Math
6. Student Citizenship
7. Assessment
8. Home/School Connection-Communication
9. Homework
10. Question and Answer
11. Closing Remarks

September 22, 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome to Curriculum Night! We greatly appreciate you taking the time to come this evening and be involved in your child's 1<sup>st</sup> grade journey. Our Spruce Street community would not be complete without your dedication and ongoing support.

We would like to express our gratitude for your generous donations to our school-wide classroom supplies. These materials help make all the learning that takes place at Spruce Street possible.

Our opening weeks have set the foundation for a positive working relationship. We are looking forward to continuing our collaborative work in the 2016-2017 school year and beyond!

Best,

Katherine, Nicole, Rebecca and Jenn

## **Research Studies**

Investigative studies play a major role in our school's mission statement, fostering inquiry and community-based research. Each First Grade class participates in three main content studies throughout the year: Grains, Restaurants, and Seed to Market. To launch our research studies, the children will activate prior knowledge of what it means to research and how to research based on their experience in Kindergarten.

In our Grains Study, students will be learning how grains have been a part of family traditions now and long ago as well as how grains bring together different cultures in our community.

In our Restaurants Study, students will investigate the inner workings of a restaurant and how they support us, our families, and the community.

In our Seed to Market Study, students will consider how markets meet the needs of our community. They will become experts on how markets are run, where food comes from, the benefits of eating food that comes from markets, and whom the markets serve. We will be visiting Greenmarkets and Battery Urban Farm in New York City on a regular basis in order for the children to experience this unit of study first-hand.

All our studies will provide rich, meaningful experiences for our students, while at the same time meeting the core standards for first grade social studies- families, communities, people in the community, and citizenship.

# Reading and Writing

Reading and Writing Workshops are essential parts of our daily literacy block. This is when we explicitly teach reading and writing strategies through modeling and student independent practice.

Throughout the year, Reading and Writing Workshops will include various Units of Study. Over the course of these weeks, students will study specific genres to notice their features and characteristics. They will then publish pieces that reflect what they have learned in Reading Workshop. Below is an overview of our units of study:

<b>Reading Workshop</b>	<b>Writing Workshop</b>
<b>Launching Reading Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building good reading habits</li> <li>● Reading/Comprehensions strategies</li> <li>● Strategies for figuring out tricky words</li> </ul>	<b>Launching Writing Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building good writing habits</li> <li>● Conventions of Writing</li> <li>● Personal Narrative – recall details of a school field trip</li> </ul>
<b>Character Study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immersion of fiction books</li> <li>● Explore characteristics</li> </ul>	<b>Characters/ Authors I Love – Opinion Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State opinion</li> <li>● Supply a reason</li> <li>● Provide a sense of closure</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Fiction / All About Books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Non-Fiction text features</li> <li>● Informational</li> <li>● Understanding main idea</li> <li>● Vocabulary</li> </ul>	<b>Informational- How To</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Features of a “How-To” (materials, heading, introduction, transition words, conclusion)</li> </ul>
<b>Narrative/ Small Moment Books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sequential Order</li> </ul>	<b>Narrative Writing- Experience at a Restaurant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transition Words</li> <li>● Recalling specific details</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Fiction / All About Books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Non-Fiction text features</li> </ul>	<b>Informational- All About</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exploring Multi-Genre Writing (maps, brochures, Q&amp;A books, paragraph writing, and poetry)</li> <li>● Interview, Questions, Brochures</li> <li>● Informational Writing</li> </ul>
<b>Opinion Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immersion of opinion books</li> <li>● Features of opinion writing</li> </ul>	<b>Persuasive: Where is the best place to buy your groceries?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persuasive Writing</li> </ul>

Reading and writing strategies are taught through workshops as well as through many other literacy activities throughout the day. Below is a list of times where students practice and engage in reading and writing:

- Shared Reading: Reading strategies are taught using big books, shared reading poems, and songs.
- Read Alouds: Hearing stories builds children's comprehension skills.
- Guided Reading: Students will read in small groups with a teacher. This is a powerful time when teachers guide small groups of students through books on the cusp of their independent levels.
- Independent Reading: Reading "just right" books on their levels helps foster decoding, comprehension, and fluency.
- Shared Writing: Students write together to convey a message.
- Word Study: Students explore the components of words, develop strategies for word recognition, word generation, and spelling.

## Math Workshop

We use Investigations Mathematics in addition to Georgia Units, Context for Learning investigation, and daily Number Talks. Students explore mathematical concepts, learn math skills and strategies through work with manipulatives, recognize math in their everyday lives, and become fluent in their addition facts to 20. Our goal is for them to become curious and capable mathematicians. We extend the Investigations curriculum through our work with our math consultant, Liz Irwin.

Our units of study for the year will be:

- Fluency with Addition and Subtraction of Numbers to 10 with Word Problems to 20
- Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction of Numbers to 20
- Ordering and Expressing Length Measurement as Numbers
- Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction of Numbers to 40
- Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction of Numbers to 100
- Identify, Compose, and Partition Shapes

## **Student Citizenship**

During the first days of school classroom community is established by setting rules that will be the expectation throughout the year. Children are also responsible for keeping the classroom organized and respected.

As a school, we are committed to nurturing the social and emotional development of each child. At Spruce Street we have developed a common set of positive expectations known as The Four Be's:

**Be Kind**

**Be Safe**

**Be Fair**

**Be Responsible**

## **Assessment**

Teachers assess students in reading, writing, math, and word study in an ongoing fashion throughout the year. As a school we conduct baseline, mid-line and end-line assessments that allow us to gauge performance and progress. Our school wide assessments are directly tied to the Common Core Standards.

In reading, we use the Fountas and Pinnell leveling system to match students with the appropriate guided and independent leveled books. In writing and math, we use a school-created tracking system to help students meet and exceed first grade curriculum standards.

## Color Coded Book Leveling System:

- Directly tied to the common core reading standards.
- Helps students self regulate to find books they can read independently.
- Teachers and students can track progress.
- Color order:
  - Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, black, white, and double colors in the same order.

<b>Color</b>	<b>Fountas and Pinnell Level</b>	<b>City- Wide Expected Benchmarks</b>
Red	A	K
Orange	B	K
Yellow	C	End of K / Beginning of 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Green	D	
Blue	E	
Black	F	Middle of 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
White	G	
Double Red	H	
Double Orange	I	
Double Yellow	J	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Double Green	K	

## Home/School Connection

- Take Home Folders
- Book Baggies
  - Come home daily, must be returned each morning.
  - Filled with "just right" books.
- Homework due Friday

# Communication

- **Take Home Folders:**

The folders go home and come back to school each day. Some days there will be nothing in the folder, but please check it daily. If there is homework, it will be in the folder every Friday. We also encourage you to send notes or inquiries through the folders. We will respond as quickly as possible to your notes.

- **Class Parents:**

Each class has a class parent in place. The class parent is an asset to our classroom community. He/she will help organize structures such as snack, field trip chaperones and volunteers. The class parent can also give information regarding the PTA and school happenings.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:**

Throughout the course of the year parents and teachers formally meet twice to discuss individual students. Our first parent teacher conference will be in November. Families are encouraged to ask teachers to set up other meeting times if they have a concern before, or after, the scheduled conference times.

- **Family Engagement:**

We will continue to use Tuesdays from 2:40-3:10 pm for family engagement. If you would like to set up a meeting during this time please arrange a date/time.

- **Email:**

E-mail can be an effective way for parents and teachers to communicate due to its convenience. However, phone calls and/or in person meetings are always preferred, especially when discussing sensitive information. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response from the time the message was sent.

## Homework: What is homework anyway?

We believe homework should be meaningful and directly linked to our curriculum. This is one way to foster independence and the home-school connection.

Homework is a way for students to practice skills and reinforce familiar concepts at home. It may also be a way to explore a new concept at home in preparation for an upcoming classroom study. Homework is not meant to be burdensome for families or cause stress for the children.

Homework will be distributed on a Friday and is to be returned the following Friday. This allows families to space the homework out over the course of seven days.

### What does homework look like in First Grade?

- **Reading**: Child reads for 20 minutes daily from their individual book baggies and/or a book you read to them.
- **Writing / Project-Related Activities**: To reinforce skills and concepts being learned within the studies.
- **Math**: Practice pages that review concepts worked on in school and practice playing math games learned in school at home.
- **Sight Words**: Practice weekly sight words by having your child say the words, write the words and spell the words.
- **Grammar**: Introduced later in the school year. Activities for your child to practice to learn the fundamentals of grammar: punctuation, singular/plural, nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.

## **Helpful Tips for Home!**

- Check your child's folder daily. Remind him/her to bring it back each day, and as 1<sup>st</sup> graders the children are responsible for placing any notes from home in their teacher's classroom mailbox.
- Read with your child daily!
- Ask your child questions about the books you read with them (e.g., their favorite part, how a character feels, what might happen next, how the book reminds them of their own life, etc.)

## **Volunteer Opportunities: Come Join us!**

- Research Work
- Family Interviews
- Guest Read Alouds
- Field Trips
- Publishing Celebrations
- Learning Alongside your Child

October 14, February 3, and March 24

**Thank you all for your enthusiasm and positive energy! We look forward to building the future of Spruce Street with you.**

# Notes