

**Sycamore Valley
School
2019-2020**

**First Grade
Handbook**

Welcome to First Grade!

Language Arts

Reading

We use the following programs to help students become proficient, enthusiastic readers who read for a variety of purposes

Units of Study in Phonics

This year we have a new phonics program that is aligned with the New York Readers and Writers Project. The goal of this program is to teach phonics concepts and strategies while keeping pace with their reading and writing skills. This series sequentially introduces sounds that make up words and the letters that represent these sounds.

Reader's Workshop

The New York Reading Project (also known as Reader's Workshop) is a program that Sycamore Elementary has implemented for many years. Reading comprehension is at the core of this program. Students are matched to "just right" books and are engaged in reading comprehension through accountable book talks, conferencing, independent and partner reading. They are challenged to think about and understand their reading.

NY Readers & Writers Project- Running Records

This program provides a method to systematically observe, record, and evaluate each child's reading performance throughout the year. Research shows the importance of pairing children with appropriate independent leveled books to reinforce learning.

Writing

Students will write daily using an integrated writing program that includes Writer's Workshop and Write one. Students will be expected to write narrative, informational and opinion pieces. Most of the time their writing will be on self-selected topics as students enjoy writing about their own experiences. Some of their writing will be teacher directed and will correlate with classroom themes and activities. During workshop, teachers will be conferencing with students on ways to improve their writing content skills. Students will be encouraged to use charts around the room for spelling and reinforcement of skills as capitalization and punctuation.

Speaking and Listening

Appropriate speaking and listening skills will be modeled and practiced by the teacher. In addition, the children will be expected to complete "Oral Sharing" assignments. The children will make a "mini-presentation" on a topic given by the teacher. The topic will vary depending on the theme being studied in the classroom. The students will organize their "presentation" at home as homework. They will be working on public speaking skills that will help them speak in front of a group. Using eye contact and good posture, speaking in a loud voice and answering the topic questions will be emphasized.

Mathematics

The core program is *Eureka Math*.

*Sums and Differences to 10

*Introduction to Place Value Through Addition and Subtraction Within 20

*Ordering and Comparing Length Measurements as Numbers

*Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction to 40

*Identifying, Composing, Addition and Subtraction to 100

The students will use concrete manipulatives and participate in hands-on activities to help them explore and develop an understanding of mathematical concepts. They will learn to use abstract symbols to represent and record these concepts.

Science/Health/Social Studies

We will implement the Next Generation Science Standards this year with Twig Science. It is an engaging program that will allow students to study phenomena through investigation, design, and building. Students will participate in hands-on experiences in four different modules; Plant Shapes, Animal Sounds, Shadows and Lights, and Patterns of Motion of Objects in the Sky.

The areas of study within Social Studies are citizenship, geography, our country, and changes over time, cultures of the world, and goods and services.

In Health, the students will learn about dental hygiene and nutrition. We will also discuss safety at home and school

Handwriting

We use the single stroke manuscript style. Included in this booklet are illustrations of all letters and their correct formation. Please provide gentle reminders and support at home for the proper formation of letters.

Assessment & Grading

We will use a variety of assessment tools to monitor the progress of each student. In addition to the district assessments, we will collect work samples from each child and continually observe the children as they work in the classroom.

Your child will be formally assessed and graded two times throughout the year. Parents will receive a report card in January and June. Goal setting conferences are scheduled for October. Spring conferences are optional. Our goal is for each child to reach or exceed standard by the end of First Grade.

Technology

Students will use technology ethically and effectively. They will be working in the computer lab and iPads will be available for skill reinforcement.