

Grade 1 – Learning Area specific course descriptions

ENGLISH

By the end of Grade 1, students begin to read and write independently. They will show consistency in letter formation and begin to practice joined up writing. Students explore the purpose of language and reflect on how language is used as a tool to think, communicate and learn.

Students are exposed to different kinds of texts and genres as they begin to understand and respond to the work of Fiction, Non-fiction and Poetry. They apply various strategies such as phonics, grammar, and context to help decode unfamiliar words.

Students express an opinion supported with a reason, making text-to-self and text-to-text connections. They recognize and derive meaning from the elements of stories and poems such as characters, settings, rhyme and rhythm.

MATHEMATICS

The Grade 1 Math curriculum is based on mastery with its focus primarily on conceptual understanding. The Math Program uses the Concrete > Pictorial > Abstract approach, emphasising on the student's development of mathematical abilities and problem solving. Five interrelated components that support the development of problem solving abilities: concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and attitudes.

By the end of Grade 1 students learn to count up to 100 and develop number skills like number bonds, ordinal numbers, addition and subtraction with the same. They are introduced to the concept of multiplication and division using concrete manipulatives. Students will be able to identify shapes and patterns, learn how to read time and also familiarize with the concept of money. They gradually learn to classify, organize and represent data using graphical representations.

SCIENCE

The Grade 1 Science curriculum is tied together with a thread relating to light, which can be connected through the four units planned for the year. The units are planned for 8-10 weeks each and are made up of multiple subunits to help students develop deeper understanding of topics. Unit 1 focuses on the sense of seeing, and includes the foundational idea that light is necessary for us to see. The need for light is true whether viewing objects on Earth or in the sky. Unit 2 extends the study of light to include its interaction with various materials, and applies ideas about light and sound to solve a problem.

Unit 3 is tied to organisms and sunlight, as part of a study of the structure and function of the external parts of plants and animals. In Unit 4, while students study plants and animals with a focus on the traits of parents and their offspring and behaviors of parents and offspring, the study of light is brought back in by looking back over student observations of the amount of daylight over the past year. Each unit in this grade also has a focus Cross Cutting Concept, building on student understanding from previous years. Units 1 and 4 focus on Patterns, Unit 2 focuses on Cause and Effect, and Unit 3 focuses on Structure and Function.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

In Grade 1, students are encouraged to play, practice and learn in personal and familiar situations with the aim to harness student's curiosity on how people, places and things interact to make sense of their world. The Social Science curriculum provides a study of the recent past, the present and the near future within the context of the student's world. Students are given opportunities to explore the concept of change in relation to themselves, their families, communities, and places they and others belong to. Students understand that important activities are associated with places and explore where they are located, and why. They come to develop a sense of belonging to their families, communities, and the world and reflect on why and how places are to be cared for.

SECOND LANGUAGE – HINDI/KANNADA

By the end of Grade 1, students will be able to recognise, identify, sound, segment and blend phonemes in individual words. They will also be able to identify simple 2 - 3 letter words (without matras) and Barakhadi/Kagunitha of letters. Students will start communicating in simple short phrases – sentences about themselves, their likes and dislikes, things in their environment, their views about stories read in class. They will follow simple instructions, learn common greetings of the language and read a few high frequency words including reading of two and three letter words. Students will be able to recognise and read 1-10 numbers in Hindi.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students understand that a computer is a machine which helps us do useful work and it needs energy to do work. They identify accessories that can be connected to a computer. They identify rules which are needed for maintaining order in the lab. They get familiar using the keyboard and mouse. They find solutions to simple logical problems through visual representation of data. They explore sequences and patterns. They design pictorial instructions to make an object move to a target.

Students also analyze needs and opportunities and design machines and keyboards. They get an introduction to image editing and text editing software.

Practical Skills:

- Start and shutdown a computer.
- Open, enter simple words and/or sentences, save and close text documents.
- Open, edit and save image files in Paint.
- Edit images using simple Paint tools: Eraser, Fill with Color, Shape, Pencil and Text.
- Identify specific Desktop components.
- Practise single click, double click, drag and drop functions of a mouse through activities and games.

READING

Grade 1 Reading program aims to inculcate a lifelong love for books and reading. Students participate in guided reading sessions that are used to model effective reading strategies.

Students read different genres – fiction, non-fiction and poetry, that helps nurture their imagination, creativity and interests while building a strong foundation in phonemic awareness, comprehension and fluency.

VISUAL ARTS

The curriculum under visual arts is designed to develop creativity and imagination among students through observation and making. Students are introduced a variety of media and techniques to express their creativity. They learn the fundamentals of art and design, gain experience with tools, materials, methods and techniques to explore and experiment without hesitation.

The students will be introduced to the fundamental Art design skills such as drawing, painting, origami, paper weaving, clay and simple sewing techniques and are encouraged to work with simple materials to achieve an artwork. Colours will be introduced through observation and experimenting with mixing Primary Colours to achieve a range of colours.

Textures from nature will be introduced through printing with found materials.

The Core learning includes

Learning to draw and paint using simple tools

Observe colors and textures

Playfully explore materials

PERFORMING ARTS

Through the music curriculum under performing arts, the students develop interest and appreciation towards music. Students learn to differentiate genres, familiarize with famous songs, analyse lyrics and sounds. Higher grades learn how to differentiate between pitch and rhythm while exploring how pattern and repetition work in music. Across all grades, the music curriculum encourages students to express their creativity and talent through classes and competitions.

STORY TELLING

Storytelling is an extremely important component of Grade 1 curriculum. It is considered one of the most innate, humane and important forms of classroom discourse and communication. Story telling sessions engage and encourage students to employ their predisposition to respond to story and use their narrative understanding as the primary meaning making tool. Students benefit from storytelling as follows:

- Supports and promotes auditory processing skills and listening skills
- Introduces new vocabulary
- Expands visualization skills as children form pictures in their minds.
- Heightens sensory imaging as all senses are elicited: tasting, touching, smelling, hearing, and feeling.
- Brings order through use of thinking skills.
- Improves decision-making skills.
- Enhances memory and stretches attention spans.
- Encourages public speaking.
- Helps them empathise with different characters, events and settings.
- Makes connections and understandings between the past, present, and future.
- Strengthens writing skills as they examine the structure of a story.

LIFESKILLS

Life-skills in primary school, encourages students to adopt habits of the mind and heart. Through these, they learn to work independently, develop self-discipline, express emotions appropriately and become confident, resilient and adaptable learners. Students identify personal capabilities – gain and use knowledge, ask questions, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. They learn how to show respect, how to be considerate and understanding of others perspectives, emotional states and needs. The program helps students develop social and emotional skills, learn to manage themselves, relate to others, develop a sense of self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel positive about themselves and the world around them- i.e. in their daily life, society and the environment.

OTHER

Students in Grade 1 are also exposed to weekly sessions in Yoga, Physical Education, Outdoor games and quiet reading time at the school library.