



## A Parent's Guide To the Los Altos School District First Grade Course of Study

August 2010

First grade instructional programs in Los Altos schools are committed to helping each child meet the academic and intellectual competencies expected at this grade level and become active, engaged learners in a classroom setting. The following summary of the instructional program provides an overview of the first grade year. The first grade program builds on skills and knowledge children have learned in Kindergarten and at home. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and respect for self and others. Expectations are modified or expanded to meet a child's needs and abilities.

Curriculum standards are what all grade-level students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of a school year. Key standards of first grade education are highlighted below. If you would like a complete description of first grade standards, they can be downloaded from the [California Department of Education](#) website.

If you have questions about curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.



## **MATHEMATICS**-----

Adopted Programs

Scott Foresman envision

### ***Number Sense***

Counts, reads, and writes whole numbers to 100  
Represent equivalent forms of the same number (to 20)  
Count and group objects in ones and tens  
Identify and know the value of coins  
Know the addition facts (sums to 20) and corresponding subtraction facts  
Use the inverse relationship between addition & subtraction to solve problems  
Show the meaning of addition and subtraction

### ***Algebra and Functions***

Write and solve number sentences from problem situations that express + and -  
Uses the +, -, and = to solve problems

### ***Measurement & Geometry***

Measures objects using standard and non-standard units  
Tells time to the nearest half hour and relates time to events  
Arrange & describe objects in space by proximity, position & direction

### ***Statistics, Data and Probability***

Organizes, represents, and compares data on simple graphs & charts  
Describes, extends and explains simple repeating patterns

**READING-LANGUAGE ARTS**-----

Adopted Programs      Houghton Mifflin Medallions Edition, Reading  
**Reading**

- Concepts of Print:** Matches oral words to printed words  
Identifies letters, words and sentences
- Phonemic Awareness:** Distinguishes sounds in single syllable words  
Creates rhyming words  
Blends sounds into words
- Decoding:** Knows all letter sounds
- Word Recognition:** Reads sight words  
Reads compound words and contractions  
Reads aloud accurately with appropriate intonation & expression
- Comprehension:** Follows one-step written instructions  
Uses predictions, prior knowledge, & context clues  
Retells the central idea of simple text
- Analysis:** Identifies and describes story elements  
Responds to literature  
Reads compound words and contractions  
Reads aloud accurately with appropriate intonation & expression
- Comprehension:** Follows one-step written instructions  
Uses predictions, prior knowledge, & context clues  
Retells the central idea of simple text
- Analysis:** Identifies and describes story elements  
Responds to literature

**Writing**

- Organization:** Selects a topic  
Uses descriptive words
- Application:** Writes narratives describing an experience  
Writes expository descriptions
- Penmanship:** Prints legibly and spaces appropriately
- Sentence Structure:** Writes in complete, coherent sentences
- Grammar:** Identifies singular and plural nouns  
Identifies contractions & singular possessive nouns
- Punctuation:** Uses end marks correctly
- Capitalization:** Capitalizes appropriately
- Spelling:** Spells three and four letter short vowel words

**Listening and Speaking**

- Comprehension:** Listens attentively and asks clarifying questions  
Follows two-step oral directions
- Organization & Delivery:** Speaks in complete sentences
- Applications:** Recites poems rhymes, songs and stories

**SCIENCE**-----

Adopted Programs      FOSS, [Solids and Liquids](#)(Physical), [Plants and Animals](#) (Life), [Air and Weather](#)(Earth)

**Scientific Process Skills**

Participates in scientific process  
Records observations and data with pictures, numbers and/or written statements

**Life, Physical or Earth Sciences**

**Matter:**                      Knows the difference between solid, liquid and gas  
Knows how the properties of matter can changes

**Plants & Animals:**        Knows how plants get nutrients and adapt to the environments

**Weather:**                     Measures and records weather conditions



**SOCIAL STUDIES**-----

Adopted Programs      Scott Foresman, [All Together](#)  
Understands that all citizens have rights and responsibilities.  
Understands that people differ and share things in common over time and place

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**-----

Children receive daily physical education, concentrating on development of eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and ability to cooperate/participate in organized games. A P.E. specialist works with the children every week, and all children will participate in the SPARK program.

**FINE and PERFORMING ARTS**-----

All primary students receive instruction in art and music on a regular basis. The District provides trained volunteers through an Art Docent program. Many schools contract with CSMA or Starting Arts for addition programs.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**-----

For children who qualify, the District offers programs for English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented, Speech and Language Development, Special Education, Psychological Testing and Counseling, and Home Teaching.