



FIRST GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

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](http://www.cde.ca.gov/bs/ed/st/pd/specc/curriculum/firstgrade.asp) 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

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.