

PARENT ORIENTATION - FIRST GRADE  
Kathi Azevedo

READING

**SRA Reading Mastery**

The curriculum materials and instructional sequences are designed to move students to mastery at the fastest possible pace. The program teaches basic decoding and comprehension skills. The explicit phonics instruction helps beginning readers master letter sounds, begin to sound out words, and use these words immediately as they read stories. In Level 1:

1. Segmentation and blending establish a strong base for teaching decoding.
2. A special alphabet and careful sequencing minimize confusion between letters.
3. Decodable stories develop fluency and confidence.
4. Literal comprehension skills build a foundation for understanding.

Students learn how to become strategic, independent readers, gaining confidence as the stories they read gradually increase in length and complexity.

**Open Court Reading**

This program is a research-based curriculum grounded in systematic instruction of:

1. Phonemic awareness, phonics, and word knowledge
2. Comprehension skills and strategies
3. Writing and language arts skills and strategies
4. Inquiry skills and strategies

This program creates a literature-rich environment that instills a passion for lifelong reading and a love of literature.

Mathematics

The Saxon Math program will be used. It is a success-oriented program that enables all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of all areas of mathematics. Mathematics will concentrate on the areas of addition, subtraction, place value to 100, money, measurement and geometry, time, and problem solving. Addition and subtraction facts to 20 will be taught. Frequent home study of the basic facts and other math concepts will be beneficial to each child's success.

## SCIENCE

The Harcourt Science text will be used. Units to be studied include About Living Things, Weather and the Seasons, and Matter and Energy. Other science units to enhance these areas will be incorporated.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The Harcourt Brace Social Studies text, *A Child's Place*, will be used. Units to be studied include School Days, At Home with My Family, Living in a Community, In and Around the Land, My Country--My Heroes, and My World Near and Far. This series stresses map skills and incorporates literature.

## RELIGION

The Sadlier text, *We Believe*, will be used and the units to be studied include:

1. Unit 1 - Jesus Teaches About God's Love
2. Unit 2 - We Are Followers of Jesus
3. Unit 3 - We Belong to the Church
4. Unit 4 - We Celebrate and Live Our Faith

Remember that you, the parents, are the most important religion teachers. Discuss religion and pray with child often. You are his\her most important model in religious development.

## HOMEWORK

Daily homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday, and is due on the following school day. Math homework will be assigned daily in relation to the Saxon Math program. Open Court decodable books that have been read in class will be sent home for review and practice. A homework sheet will be given at the beginning of each week listing the homework assignments for each day. Please look for this sheet in your child's homework folder. Homework not completed will be reflected on your child's report card.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Tennis shoes should be worn, and girls should wear shorts under their jumpers. A note should be brought from home if a child cannot participate in P.E.

## COMPUTER

The students will go to the Computer Lab on Monday and be taught computer skills.

## COMMUNICATION

Notes will be sent home regarding events that will take place. You will also be contacted concerning your child's academic progress and overall behavior. Please feel free at any time to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact me by a phone call or written note. Wednesdays after school I will be available to meet with you if there is a concern. If this is not convenient, other arrangements will be made. It is very important to me that we work together to make your child's year in first grade a special one.

## EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING PROCEDURE

Grades for each student will be determined by the following:

### Performance

1. Participation in class/oral and written work
2. Completion of work in the time given
3. Display knowledge and skills of the subject areas
4. Performance on tests
5. Completion and accuracy of homework

### Conduct

1. Attention given during class
2. Respect and cooperation of class rules
3. Displaying best effort during groups and seatwork time

## BIRTHDAYS

If your child celebrates a birthday during the school year, you may send treats to school for the students to share. Cupcakes, cookies, or doughnuts are easy to distribute. These treats will be shared at their morning recess. Please let me know in advance if you plan to bring treats for your child. Birthday invitations are not to be distributed in class.

## DISCIPLINE

In order to guarantee your child, and all the children in my class, the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am utilizing the following Discipline Plan.

My Philosophy: I believe all my students can behave appropriately in my classroom. I will tolerate no student stopping me from teaching and/or any student from learning.

## SCHOOL RULES

We ....

1. Follow directions
2. Act safely
3. Keep our hands, feet, and objects to ourselves
4. Show respect for self and others
5. Are on time and ready to learn

## Behavior Chart

The following chart will be used to show student behavior. Clothespins with the students' names will be placed on the appropriate category. Students will have the opportunity to improve their behavior during the school day. All students begin on "Good Day" each morning. If a student is placed on "Good Day" or above at the end of each day, they will be able to choose a prize at the end of the week.

Outstanding

Great Job

Good Day

Hello

Think About It

Teacher's Choice

Parent Contact

Students will also earn verbal praise and group points for excellent behavior and working together. I will do my best to help the students reach their full potential. I am looking forward to teaching your child and working with you this year.

Sincerely,  
Kathi Azevedo