

Parent Guide to First Grade

Randolph County School System



English Language Arts

In first grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. First graders will extend their understanding of phonemic awareness, decoding, word recognition, comprehension, and conventions for written language. Important goals for the year include:

Reading:

- Use grade level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unknown words.
- Retell important details from fiction and nonfiction text.
- Use details and illustrations from a story, poem or play to describe the characters, settings and major events.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of characters in stories.
- Find similarities and differences between two or more texts on the same topic.
- Make connections within a text.
- Use various strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases in a text.
- Explain the difference between books that tell stories and books that give information.

Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish their writing.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects with the class.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling, including capitals and end punctuation.

Speaking/Listening:

- Take part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion.
- Use complete sentences when expressing ideas and feelings.

Read more about what your child will learn this year in the parent guides from the NC Department of Public Instruction! [Parent Guide & Parent Guide Booklets](#)

Mathematics

In first grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense. Important goals for the year include:

- Represent and solve addition and subtraction word problems.
- Count to 150; starting at any number less than 150.
- Read, write, and model numbers through 100.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Understand what the digits mean in two-digit numbers and represent numbers using tens and ones (place value).
- Compare numbers to determine which one is larger or smaller.
- Use understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., $38 + 5$, $29 + 20$, $80 - 50$, $64 + 10$).
- Measure and compare lengths of objects.
- Tell time to the hour and half-hour.
- Read, understand, and make graphs.
- Describe, compare, and model by building or drawing two- and three-dimensional shapes.
- Make new shapes by joining shapes together.
- Divide circles and rectangles into halves or fourths.

Parent Guide to First Grade

Science

As first grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively participate in simple investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers.

Important goals for the year include:

- Explain what happens to an object when it is pushed or pulled. Predict the effect of a force on the motion of an object.
- Recognize the different features of the day and night sky. Recognize patterns in the moon's appearance from day to day.
- Compare the physical properties of rocks, minerals, soil, and water and describe the different ways they are useful.
- Explain the basic needs of plants and animals. Describe how humans can protect and improve the environment.
- Summarize the basic needs of plants and animals for energy and growth.

Social Studies

First grade students will learn how they are connected to the world around them.

Important goals for the year include:

- Look for ways to be civic-minded and make change happen within their own classroom, school, and community.
- Become acquainted with diverse cultures and how values and beliefs help shape the communities in which we live.
- Develop an awareness of the similarities and differences among ethnically diverse people.
- Further develop a sense of purpose regarding their role and the role of other citizens within the community and world.
- Understand how basic economic concepts influence people, places, and the environment.
- Develop spatial awareness of their surroundings by using geographic representations, tools, and terminology to process information about the world around them.
- Learn that people not only use the environment to meet their needs and wants but also that the environment often dictates where and how people choose to live.
- Compare life in the past to life today as they study the contributions of historical figures and how those figures have helped shape and change various communities and environments across the globe.

Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

www.randolph.k12.nc.us

Parent Resources

www.ed.gov/

Today Parenting Guides

www.today.com/parenting-guides

NC Department of Public Instruction & K-12 Standards

www.dpi.nc.gov

National PTA Parent Guides

www.pta.org

NC Department of Public Instruction ELA Parent Guides

<https://ncdpi.instructure.com/courses/914/pages/parent-guides>