



Newburyport Literacy Curriculum Framework Guide

First Grade Focus Areas

In First Grade, the focus of student learning is on four areas:

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Speaking and Listening
4. Language

First Grade Overview

Reading:

The PreK-5 standards ensure exposure to a range of texts and tasks as well as rigor with increasingly complex texts through the grades. Students read widely from a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts including stories, drama, poems, myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, and texts across the content areas. Curriculum is intentionally structured to develop rich content knowledge within and across the grades. A research-and-evidence based scope and sequence for phonological awareness and phonics development are important components of an effective, comprehensive reading curriculum designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines.

Reading - Literature and Informational Text

- Asks and answers questions about key details
- Identify major story elements or main topic of a text and retells key details demonstrating understanding of a central message
- Recognizes common types of text structures and stories, including folktales
- Know and use various text features to locate key facts of information in a text
- Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, settings or events
- Compare/contrast two characters experiences
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas or pieces of information
- Read and comprehend literary and informational texts representing a variety of genres, cultures & perspectives at a grade 1 complexity.

Reading - Foundational Skills

- Print Concepts - Understand organization and basic features of print
 - Recognize the features of a sentence
- Phonological Awareness - Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds (phonemes)
 - Orally blend, isolate and pronounce, and segment sounds in single-syllable words

- Phonics and Word Recognition - Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding
 - Spelling-sound correspondences for digraphs
 - Decode regularly spelled one- and two-syllable words
 - Know final -e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel sounds
 - Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words
- Fluency - Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Writing

In PreK-5, students learn to use writing to support opinions, demonstrate understanding of subjects, and convey real and imagined experiences and events. The key purpose of writing which is to communicate clearly to an audience and adapt their writing to accomplish a particular task. Instruction focuses on three types of writing (opinion, informational/explanatory, narrative) which encompass a variety of texts including poems, short stories and memoirs. Students will engage with a wide range of model texts and study authors and writing across genres.

- Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure
- Write informative/explanatory texts that name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure
- Write narratives that recount two or more sequenced events or experiences, include some details, use temporal words to signal order, and provide some sense of closure
- Produce writing appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing
- Participate in shared research and writing projects
- Write routinely on a range of tasks, purposes and audiences

Speaking and Listening

In preK-5, Students are provided with ample opportunities to take part in a variety of rich, structured conversations as a whole class, in small groups, and with partners. Students learn to be productive group members of these conversations as they contribute, respond, compare/contrast, and analyze/synthesize ideas. Standards ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and application.

- Participate in collaborative conversations about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults
- Ask and answer questions about text or information presented
- Describe people, places, things and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and using appropriate vocabulary
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation

Language

In preK-5, students must gain control of many conventions for standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics along with learning to convey meaning effectively. Conventions, effective language use and vocabulary are inseparable from reading, writing, speaking and listening.

- Conventions of Standard English:
 - Demonstrate ability to produce and expand simple and compound sentences
 - Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English: capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Print legibly all upper- and lowercase letters
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
 - Determine/clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases from grade 1 reading and content
 - Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in meaning such as categories, shades of meaning among verbs, identifying real-life connections between words and their use
 - Use words and phrases acquired in conversations, activities in grade 1 curriculum, and reading

