



The New Academy Curriculum Guide

First Grade

Below is an overview of the textbooks and materials we have chosen for the upcoming school year for first grade students. At The New Academy, we are committed to consistently reviewing and updating our curriculum with each passing academic year. As our school develops, we will continuously explore new products, ideas and teaching strategies that will engage our students and inspire a deeply rooted desire to learn!

MATH

Saxon Math

A teaching method for incremental learning of mathematics, Saxon involves teaching a new mathematical concept every day and constantly reviewing old concepts. A Saxon lesson typically splits the day's work evenly between practicing the new material and reviewing old material. Its primary strength is in a steady review of all previous material, which is especially important to students who struggle with retaining the math they previously learned.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Harcourt Spelling/Phonics

Harcourt Brace Spelling develops communication skills with research-based instructional techniques, phonetic decoding, writing development, integrated language arts, and special student reference features.

Harcourt Storytown and Trophies Literature

Our curriculum for early and fluent readers, StoryTown and Trophies literature stories have surprises around every corner and adventure just down the street. Storytown authors Dr. Isabel Beck and Dr. Margaret McKeown create a rich verbal environment through carefully selected words, student-friendly explanations, and meaningful learning activities. Specifically for the early readers, Story Town was created using the elements of considerate text. Considerate text refers

to the embedded support that assists students as they read. These features include picture support, highlighted vocabulary, graphic organizers, student friendly objectives, easy to follow paths, skill lessons, mentor text, student models, paired-selections, and the glossary to name a few. First grade students receive nightly reading assignments based on their reading level. Each week they master several books, with the specific sounds and blends they have reviewed in class.

Library Book Club

Our first grade students are introduced to the library system. Within the first month of school, they will sign up for library cards, meet the librarians and learn proper library manners. The first grade class will take one trip per week to the library to pick out books that interest them. Students will read through their selections in class and at home. Beyond their assigned reading curriculum, the children will become familiar with the library process and the freedom to discover books that they enjoy reading for fun.

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

Beginning in kindergarten and first grade, our students will work through regular handwriting practice that teaches proper handwriting techniques and promotes early fine motor skill development.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Harcourt Social Studies

Harcourt Social Studies takes students on a journey through time and place. It's packed with reading support tools, such as charts, graphs, and timelines that help students better grasp the concepts. Books are engaging, colorful and packed with appealing facts and pictures that capture students' attention and interest. Our lower elementary teachers use this curriculum as a guide, but often social studies work will be based on hands-on, experiential activities, crafts and projects.

SCIENCE

Harcourt Science

Harcourt Science textbooks create a world of science discovery. With an activity and experiment at the beginning of each lesson, the books inspire interest and promote curiosity. The program acknowledges scientific discoveries from all over the world, making the curriculum multicultural. The material presented focuses on reaching students with various learning styles. The books have tons of pictures that are helpful for students in the lower primary grades that might have difficulty reading and following directions. First grade students' science work will be based on science experiments and projects from this text.

OTHER RESOURCES

Technology Resources

Students will have daily access to the newest instructional technology. This will include Smartboard programs and lessons, personal net books, laptops , iMacs and iPads. With a computer for every student, upper elementary students will be completing much of their assignments online, as the New Academy moves toward a green and paperless classroom!

Guest Speakers

To connect real life application to many of the concepts studied within school, the elementary school will be welcoming one guest speaker each month to speak with the Students at The New Academy!

Field Trips

To further encourage and inspire learning, New Academy students will participate in many field trips to take students outside the classroom where they will experience science, social studies, literature, and fine arts firsthand.

Fun Cards

The Fun Card is an original classroom management and character education system developed by our curriculum coordinator. Each student at The New Academy will carry a 'Fun Card' with them through out the week, which highlights various behavior standards (i.e. respect teachers and friends, use your manners, play fair, etc). Students earn points for appropriate behavior through out the week and are given the opportunity to earn a 'Fun Friday' period at the end of the week.