

Learning Together, Succeeding Together

First Grade News August/September 2021

Dear First Grade Families,

Welcome! We are so excited to work with your child this year and help him/her grow as a learner. Our goal is to make your child's experience in first grade both meaningful and enjoyable.

During the first few weeks of school, we will focus on community building. This will continue to be a big part of our learning during the coming month. The students will participate in many learning activities designed to help them get to know each other better, as well as develop an understanding of first grade expectations.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning together!

First Grade Teachers ☺



Reading

In reading, we are learning how to choose a "Just Right" book (one that is not too easy or too hard). Students will continue to practice this skill during Independent Reading time.

As soon as reading assessments are complete, we will be placing students into their guided reading groups.

In September students will start bringing home books to read nightly and record on their reading logs. In the meantime, please have your child choose a book from home to read either independently or with support. Remember, students should read approximately 10-15 minutes every night!

Writing



We will begin our writing experience this year by working on personal narratives (stories from the author's own experiences).

In the coming month, the students will learn how to use pictures to help plan their writing. Also, they will work on focusing their stories on one topic, as well as learn how adding details will help strengthen their writing.

In addition, we will spend some time developing our handwriting skills.

Math



We are currently working on unit 1 of our Everyday Math program. This unit focuses on numbers and routines. Below are some of the skills we are practicing:

- Skip counting
- Writing whole numbers
- Representing whole numbers with tally marks
- Order and comparing numbers

Science/Social Studies

We started our year by learning what it means to be a Larks student with **P.R.I.D.E.** in the school community. We learned that Larks have **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**reams to Achiever and **E**mpathy. We used this understanding to help develop our classroom expectations.

Next, we will study chronology (the sequential order of events) using a calendar and vocabulary related to time.

Word Study

Students will receive intentional instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and sight-word-recognition skills.

We will start our word study by reviewing the short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, and u). Also, we will review sight words that students learned in kindergarten.

Got P.R.I.D.E.?

Perseverance
Respect
Integrity
Dreams to Achieve
Empathy



Dates to Remember

Sep 6 **No School** – Labor Day

Sep 7 **Assessment Day** – Please bring your child at his/her scheduled time. An assessment sign-up school email will be sent soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's first grade teacher.