



First Grade Curriculum Overview

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Language Arts (McGraw Hill Language Arts Program)

The first grade language arts program is designed to meet the needs of each student both as an individual and as a member of the classroom community. Reading and writing are integrated into many aspects of the school day so that students come to see these skills as necessary parts of their everyday lives. Reading and writing are taught in whole groups, small groups and on an individual basis.

During a typical school day, students are involved in a wide variety of literacy activities. Each experience enhances their awareness of written language and furthers their development as language users. They listen to quality literature read aloud and share their ideas during group discussions. They also participate in shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. They observe teachers modeling different writing techniques and have ample opportunities to practice independent writing and share their work with others.

We continually assess what children can do and build on their strengths. Evaluation is an ongoing process that helps guide classroom instruction. An emphasis is placed on learning reading and writing skills in meaningful contexts. Children are taught to use a combination on contextual, pictorial and phonetic cues as they read. Through daily practice, they begin to understand the relationship between

the words they see in print and those they use in their writing. Additional small group instruction is available for those children who need further help in developing reading and language skills such as phonics, sight word recognition, comprehension, and handwriting.

Social Studies

Social Studies are taught at Mutanafisun Academy to cultivate the understanding of children about who they are and the awareness of other peoples and cultures in the world around them. This begins as simply as their families and shapes in their world and extends to Medieval Civilizations and The Islamic World. All subjects are viewed through the Islamic perspective giving the children a clear understanding of Allah's desire for mankind on earth in the context of history.

These themes begin as month long topics and become half year topics in First Grade, and year long topics in Fourth Grade, teaching the children in depth exploration and investigation skills valuable throughout their whole lives. The chosen theme is incorporated into the language arts, arts, and science giving the children a rich and complete learning experience.

As this subject is language based, some of the methods used are reading and making books and poetry, singing songs in the early classrooms, seeing films, visiting museums and related places, hands on projects, listening to experts, real experience when possible, and other exciting classroom activities.

Two large topics that all first graders study are the desert, and the tropical rain forest. Through these units we expand our view of community to include native cultures,

animal habitats and tropical ecosystems. Children gain an appreciation for the interconnectedness of our world environment and begin to understand their place in the global community.

Mathematics (Harcourt Math)

At Mutanafisun Academy we use Harcourt math for all grades K2 and up. While math is taught as a discipline with its own language and conventions, lessons also offer ample opportunities for linking mathematics with other disciplines. Math requires incremental review and steady practice, approaching problems from a variety of angle. Major concepts studied include:

Number and Operation

Number Sense

Count, name, recognize and write numbers to 100

Recognize and write number words to 10

Recognize ordinal numbers through 10

Count by 100's, 1's, 5's, and 10's

Count backwards by 1's

Develop one-to-one correspondence for numbers 1-100

Arrange numbers in sequence

Develop a beginning understanding of place value for two digit #'s

Understand the concept of fractions and represent familiar fractions: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$

Computation

Understand the symbols: +, -, and =

understand the meaning of addition and subtraction and the relationship between the two

Add and subtract single digit numbers to 12

Read, write, and solve story problems using single digit numbers

Demonstrate thinking using a variety of methods including drawing, concrete models, mental computation, and algorithms

Recognize whether numerical solutions are reasonable

Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Sort and classify objects by different properties

Order objects by size or other numerical property

Identify, analyze, and extend patterns

Begin to understand concept of missing addend

Begin to understand concept of balancing equations

Geometry and Spatial Sense

Recognize, name, build, draw, describe, and compare 2-D objects

Understand similarities and differences of simple 3-D objects

Recognize and locate geometric shapes in their environment

Investigate and predict the results of putting together and taking apart shapes

Find and name locations with simple coordinate systems

Recognize and create simple symmetrical designs

Measurement

Estimate and measure length, capacity, weight, and area using hands-on experiences

Compare and order objects by the above attributes

use a variety of measurement tools (standard to the nearest 1" and non-standard)

Experience concept of passage of time using a calendar

Graphing, Statistics, and Probability

Gather data from everyday life to enter in graph format
Construct, read and interpret simple bar and pictographs

Begin to understand line graphs

Develop language to interpret graphs

Understand and apply basic notions of chance and probability

Problem Solving

Represent one's understanding of problem solving using pictures, words or diagrams

Develop a strategy to solve each problem and understand other's strategies

Relate problems to real-life situations

Communication

Convey problem-solving strategies to classmates

Listen and understand a variety of strategies

Science (Harcourt Science)

First Grade science is offered twice weekly. A major goal is to stimulate the children's natural interest and curiosity about science. Children begin to see nature as a manifestation of Allah's (swt) Greatness and how the orderliness of it all testifies to His Oneness (Tawheed). Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills such as observing, describing, comparing, grouping, predicting and concluding.

First grade science uses a hands-on approach. Content within the life, chemical, and physical sciences is introduced. Areas that are related to first grade topics such as the desert will be explored. Some teacher-selected topics are

introduced as well. Topics may include:

Animals and habitats: Observe different animals. Study animal and plant habitats. Explore concepts such as life cycles and food chains.

Plants and Seeds: Observe the life cycle of plants. Activities include propagation of plant parts, planting seeds, and growing plants.

Changes: Observe seasonal changes such as the color shift in leaves and explore paper chromatography.

Matter and Energy:

Investigate matter, Heat and light

Energy and Forces:

Pushes and pulls, Magnets

Computers

Computers in first grade support and enhance the curriculum. The students have computer lab twice weekly and there is a computer located in each of the classrooms. A variety of software programs are available to the teachers. Programs are chosen to be developmentally appropriate, relate to classroom content, offer new ways of looking at the traditional curriculum, encourage creativity, foster collaboration and communication, encourage thinking and stimulate inquiry, and challenge and motivate a wide range of students.

Both homeroom and special subject teachers are invited to bring their classes to the computer room when appropriate. A visit to the computer room is seen as an

extension of the regular classroom.

Quran:

Qur'an is practiced daily by all grades levels. They are taught to sit and respect the Qur'an as Allah's words for 50 minutes a day in 1st grade. The meaning is discussed on their level with stories. By the end of the year students will have the opportunity to complete Juz 'amma.

Some of the major themes that are reinforced are:

- Firm belief that the Quran is the Word of Allah (swt)

- The Quran was revealed in the Arabic language

- The Quran is true guidance for all mankind

- Allah (swt) has promised to protect the Quran forever; nothing in it has changed

- Characteristics of a Muslim

- Distinction between a believer and a non-believer

- A believer's attitude towards life

- Reward from Allah (swt) for those who believe and punishment for those who are worldly and arrogant

Islamic Studies:

'Aqidah and Fiqh

- Identity of self as a Muslim

- The articles of faith

- The Muslim Family

- Muslim Etiquette

 - Cleanliness

 - Manner of dress

 - Manners while eating

 - Manners during travel

Sirah and Hadith Studies

Be familiar with name and personality of Prophet Muhammad (saw)

Introducing Prophet Muhammad as Allah's (swt) last Prophet and messenger

Meaning of the word prophet

Saying Salaam on the Prophet (saw)

Obedience to Allah (swt) through obedience to Muhammad (saw)

Examples of other prophets of Allah (swt)

Introduction to the Kaaba, its significance and history

Prophet Muhammad's (saw) childhood, and youth

Prophet Muhammad's (saw) marriage to Khadijah (ra)

Prophet Muhammad's (saw) visits to Hira and search for truth

Allah (swt) selects Muhammad (saw) as His Messenger and Prophet, The Wahi sent down upon the Prophet (saw)

Khadijah's (ra) role in comforting the Prophet (saw)

Muhammad (saw) gives the message to his friends and family

The Kuffar of Makkah

The teachings of Islam vs. the beliefs of the Kuffar

Prophet Muhammad (saw) takes his teachings to Ta'if

Prophet Muhammad's (saw) night journey to Jerusalem and his journey to Heaven (Isra & Mi'raj)

The spread of Islam beyond Makkah as the people of Medina accept Islam

Sayings of our Prophet (saw)

Selected 10 ahadith with Arabic text and meaning for understanding and memorization

Islamic History and Social Studies

Islamic History

Life and Teachings of Prophets Ibrahim, Isma'il, Ishaq and Lut (as)

They should already know the stories of Prophets Adam, Nuh, Hud, and Ibrahim (as).

Geography

The history and geography of Makkah

Significance of Makkah to Islam and Muslims

Climate, people, foods, and animals of Makkah

Economics

Money is used to buy goods; honest ways to earn money

Sharing money with those who do not have enough; not wasting

Money

Civics

Civic virtues; the human being as a social and religious being

Responsibilities of a young Muslim

Obeying Allah's (swt) commands

Arabic:

Arabic class in grades 1 and up and held four times a week for one hour. Uhibbul Arabiyyah textbooks and work books are used and are supplemented with other Arabic children's literature, games and songs. The over all goal is to help the children reach fluency in reading and writing, and to begin to have an understanding of the Qur'an and Islamic literature as well as spoken modern standard Arabic. The text book focuses on building vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, and improving reading and writing skills.

Learn the letters and their sounds in the initial, medial, and final positions

Learn vocabulary words connected to the following themes: in the classroom, play room, the farm, gym, playground, home, family, zoo, beach, village, kitchen, and more.

Islamic greetings, asking someone's name and replying

Colors, numbers, shapes and sizes

Asking basic questions and giving answers

Songs

Visual Arts

First grade has art classes once a week. Painting, drawing, woodworking, collage, printmaking, and modeling with clay are explored throughout the year. Children are reminded about the prohibition of making images in Islam and are gently guided towards expressing their creativity in other ways. Students learn to handle scissors, paintbrushes, tape, and glue. Projects are integrated with classroom topics in science, social studies, and language arts.

Library

Children visit the local public library at least twice a month. They learn the responsibility of borrowing and returning books. As the year progresses, we will talk about how the library is arranged by categories, what types of books can be found in the library, and how the card catalog is organized by title, author, and subject.

“Reading aloud is the single most important activity you can do to make a successful reader,” says Lucy Calkins, Ph.D. author of *Raising Lifelong Learners*. Parents are encouraged to read aloud to children even after they have learned to read.

Physical Education

First grade students are challenged to react to directions and to try to achieve a specific movement pattern. Movement Activities: Animal imitations, structured movement, shapes, acceleration and deceleration, transferring weight, bilateral, unilateral, and cross-lateral movement.

Manipulative Skills: Ball skills such as dribbling, kicking, or passing are practiced throughout the year. Bouncing, rolling, throwing, catching and shooting with different sized balls will be experienced.

Locomotor Skills: Running, walking, jumping, hopping, leaping, skipping, galloping, and sliding are stressed and perfected.

Large Group Games: Develop team awareness, adherence to rules, team spirit, and cooperation. Relay, circle or line

formations are presented in each game. Tagging games are emphasized for enjoyment as well as for developing aerobic fitness and running skills (stop, dodge and change of direction).

Homework

Homework compliments and reinforces what is being learned in class. It is training for future good study and time management habits. It also helps to keep parents informed of what their child is learning. Children are encouraged to become homework “all-stars”. In addition, parents are expected to read to their children for at least 15 minutes per day.