

First Grade September Newsletter



Welcome First Grade Families!

Each month, a newsletter will be posted to our first grade Seesaw. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about what your child will be learning each month. It will also include helpful resources and tips to reinforce skills at home. We are looking forward to a great year working with you and your child.

Science, Social Studies & Health

Science:

Our first unit in science is about engineering and technology. Students will learn about the design process, which involves identifying a problem, developing steps to solve it, observing and recording data, and analyzing results. Students will also learn about safety procedures during hands-on activities.

Social Studies and Health:

In social studies and health, we are learning the rules of Knollwood School so that we can stay safe and happy, and do our best learning each and every day. In our classrooms, we have begun reading stories from Sanford Harmony, which is a social and emotional learning program. The children are getting to know each other and are learning to appreciate their commonalities as well as their differences. They are quickly learning that every member of our class is valuable and makes our classroom community special.

Math

In math, we will begin learning about the operation of addition. Throughout the unit, the children will use manipulatives to model number stories and learn to write a corresponding number sentence. We have also started our count for the 100th day of school. This daily routine involves exploring the number of the day through place value activities that continually build and strengthen number sense.

Language Arts

FUNDations:

We will start by reviewing letters, sounds, and formations and how to blend and segment words. Next, we will begin learning about the digraphs wh, ch, sh, th, and ck. The students will learn about punctuation. We will also focus on the narrative story form (characters, setting, and main events) to connect these new skills to reading.

Sight Words:

Sight words (also called red words or high frequency words) are words your child must learn by "sight" as they cannot be read using typical strategies. These words appear frequently in text. We will be sending home further information regarding these words and ways to practice at home!

Reading Workshop:

This month, we will launch our reading workshop program. Your child will be learning key reading strategies. Each day, the children will participate in mini lessons to develop their reading skills. This is followed by an independent reading time, which provides them the opportunity to engage in authentic reading experiences with books from our classroom library.

Writing Workshop:

Similar to reading workshop, your child will participate in writing workshop. Each day, a mini lesson will be presented to develop their writing skills. This is then followed by an independent writing time. Our first writing unit will explore the genre of personal narrative stories, known as "Small Moments." At home, talk about family trips, birthday parties, playing with friends, and other personal experiences to help students begin to brainstorm ideas for upcoming small moment stories.