

The American School in London

Grade 1: Semester 2 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the second reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts.

Approaches to Learning

Social skills and emotional development are essential for success. Grade 1 students continue to follow classroom agreements that support being respectful, responsible, and safe. Children continue to resolve conflicts constructively, interact cooperatively with peers, interact appropriately with adults, and deepen current friendships. Children are still encouraged to be attentive listeners, participate in class discussions, and make relevant responses.

Reading

Grade 1 students acquire and apply literacy skills through a balance of small group guided reading lessons, shared reading experiences, and independent reading of just-right books. Children are encouraged to read fiction and nonfiction text with fluency, expression and increased comprehension. At the end of Grade 1, we expect most students to be reading, engaging with and understanding books independently at the Fountas and Pinnell reading level I.

Writing

Our writing approach emphasizes creativity, building confidence in writing, and developing fluency. Having studied narrative and opinion writing in the first part of the year, our writing work continues with an exploration of realistic fiction and informational writing. Children are given the opportunity to write, revise, edit, publish and share both fiction and nonfiction pieces. We emphasize the connection between writing and phonological awareness through the study of letters, sounds and words. This practice enables children to take risks in spelling. Children develop their editing skills by practicing proper letter formation, punctuation, spacing, and correct use of capitals.

Speaking and Listening

In Grade 1, we expect our students to continue to practice and model effective communication skills. Students are given many opportunities to express their ideas, new understandings and feelings. Active listening and speaking are encouraged every day.

Math

The Grade 1 math curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on sense making, reasoning, problem solving, and flexible thinking. This semester, students continue to deepen their understanding of place value, operations and measurement. Students work both independently and with peers to develop their reasoning skills through a range of games and activities, and use manipulatives and models to solidify their understanding and represent their thinking. In addition, daily math routines continue to support instruction and reinforce mathematical ideas.

Science

In Science, Grade 1 students participate in inquiry-based projects related to life science with a focus on life cycle. Emphasis is placed on asking relevant questions, making predictions, observations, investigations, and explanations based on recorded information.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, Grade 1 students develop an understanding of their community and the world around them. This semester students learn about community, develop interviewing skills, and gain a greater awareness of the roles that we all have in supporting each other within our school.

Spanish

This semester, Grade 1 students will continue to work on securing and expanding their previous knowledge through movement, music, and interactive games. Students practice their speaking skills by continuing to greet each other, use courtesy words and share basic personal information. We will also work on our listening skills by presenting the vocabulary words for the parts of the face, food, clothes, weather, toys, and pets.

PE

During the second term, the students in Grade 1 explore more complex challenges through sequencing locomotor skills. They engage in problem solving activities such as advanced spy training and circus skills, and practice visual tracking skills such as striking, sending and receiving. In the gymnastics unit, the emphasis is to make and recognize body shapes independently and cooperatively. Through fitness games, the students become increasingly aware of how their bodies respond to exercise, and use pedometers to set daily goals.

Art

This semester, Grade 1 students continue to explore color, form, shape and texture to form the basis for their expressive work. They make, evaluate, create and complete projects that represent their personal preferences and style. Students look at the relationship between their learning in art and other subjects to create a visual work that connects to topics, such as the community project. Students also investigate and use observation in preparation for making a work of art, understanding that people from different places and times make art for a variety of reasons.

Music

In the second semester, Grade 1 students continue to develop their singing skills through a variety of songs and singing games. They consolidate their understanding of basic rhythmic notation and meter through pattern-based dances and other movement activities. Students are more confident in keeping a steady beat and develop their facility using untuned percussion instruments as well as body percussion. They use glockenspiels to create their own short melodies, and share them in class, using a reduced stave to read and write simple melodic patterns. Students prepare for a performance at the end of the year where they utilise a number of different performing arts skills including singing, playing and dancing.