

# First Grade Information

We have tried to think of many of the commonly asked questions that parents often have concerning first grade. Following is a list of items we hope you will find useful. If at any time you have further questions, we encourage you to send a note with your child or call school. We can normally be reached between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. We value open and frequent communication with parents as an essential element in the education process of your child.

## 1. SCHOOL ADDRESS

Anchor Pointe Elementary  
17007 HWS Cleveland Boulevard  
Bennington, NE 68007



## 3. SCHOOL HOURS

8:20-3:05

## 4. LUNCH & Milk Accounts

Please keep a positive-running lunch balance in your child's lunch account. Students may also pay quarterly or by semester for a snack milk.

## 5. Practice at Home

Weekly sight word lists, guided reading books, and math activities will be sent home throughout the year. There is usually enough time allowed during class for students to complete daily assignments. However, if a student does not complete his work in class, he may be asked to take it home to finish. Please check backpacks and folders daily, as there may be important materials enclosed.

## 6. ABSENCES

We would appreciate your continued cooperation in phoning the school office as soon as possible, after 7:30 AM, if your child will be absent.

## 7. BOOK ORDERS

Scholastic is now providing an opportunity to order books online. All teachers in first grade only accept online orders. We may send home paper flyers of monthly specials. You will be given the information of how to log into your child specific book club for their class.

## 8. SUPPLIES

Please check periodically with your child to make sure they are equipped with glue, scissors, pencils, and crayons (the essentials).

**Bennington Public Schools Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

**Anchor Pointe Vision:****PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

- *Reading, writing, and phonics* instruction share a major portion of each day's instructional format. A literacy rich environment provides students with meaningful reading, writing, listening and speaking activities.
- *Math* is taught with an emphasis on basic math concepts and facts, while teaching children to become problem solvers and critical thinkers.
- *Science* provides students with the opportunities to explore science concepts that include inquiry, the scientific process, life, earth, physical and health topics presented in a hands-on format.
- *Social Studies* provide students with basic learning in the areas of history, economics, geography, and citizenship.
- *Personal and social development* is integrated on a daily basis as students learn to work and interact with other students and adults in a positive and productive way.

High expectations are held for all students to grow and develop to their greatest potential.

Rules of respect for one another and responsibility for oneself are stressed. Students listen to one another, solve conflicts and become sensitive to one another's feelings.

Parents and teachers work together as partners in the educational decision-making process for students.

**Student Evaluation and Assessment**

Children are evaluated on their strengths and growth throughout the year. Information is shared with parents during our fall and spring conferences.

\*Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher when questions arise throughout the school year. \*

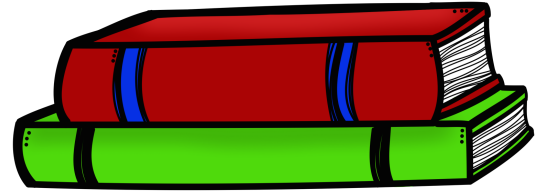
## First Grade Assessments

The children are given state assessment tests throughout the year in all core curriculum subjects. All assessments are aligned with the state standards. These assessments are compiled within a portfolio that is shown to parents at conferences.

## Ways to Help with Reading at Home

### Setting the Atmosphere:

- \*Have your child find a quiet, comfortable place to read.
- \*Have your child see you as a reading model.
- \*Read aloud to your child.
- \*Discuss the stories you read together.
- \*Recognize the value of silent reading.
- \*Keep reading time enjoyable and relaxed.



### Responding to Errors in Reading

Based on the way most of us were taught to read, we have told the child to “sound it out” when he comes to an unknown word. While phonics is an important part of reading, reading for meaning is the primary goal. To produce independent readers who monitor and correct themselves as they read, the following prompts are recommended *before* saying “sound it out”:

- \*Give your child wait time of 5 to 10 seconds. See what he attempts himself.
- \*”What would make sense there?”
- \*”What do you think it could be?”
- \*”Use the picture to help you figure out what it could be.”
- \*”Go back to the beginning and try that again.”
- \*”Skip over it and read to the end of the sentence...Now what do you think it is?”
- \*”Put in a word that will make sense there.”
- \*”You read that word before on another page. See if you can find it.”
- \*”Look at the beginning of the word. Start it out and keep reading.”
- \*Tell your child the word.

Most importantly, focus on what your child is doing well and is attempting to do. Remain loving and supportive. When your child is having difficulty and trying to work out the trouble spots, comments such as the following are suggested:

- \*”Good for you. I like the way you tried to work that out.”
- \*”That was a good try. Yes, that word would make sense there.”
- \*”I like the way you looked at the picture to help yourself.”
- \*I like the way you went back to the beginning of the sentence and tried that again. That’s what good readers do.”
- \*”You are becoming a good reader. I’m proud of you.”

Invitations, Regie Routman  
Heinemann, Portsmouth, NH

## Strategies for Hard Words

In new books there will be some hard parts. What are you going to do when you come to a word you do not know? There are many strategies you can try.

You can...

- \*Try it again
- \*Grab the first sound
- \*Look at the picture
- \*Look through the whole word
- \*Look for chunks that you know
- \*Read with your finger
- \*Ask, does the word make sense?
- \*Ask, does the word I chose sound right?
- \*Ask, does the word I chose look right?

\*If necessary, the adult may use a prompt. This may be any type of cue. The aim is to have the child take some initiative and do home reading work. You should welcome any contribution the child can make to solve the problem.

- \*Tell the child the word
- \*Later you can simply say....check it three ways...
  - Does the word you chose LOOK RIGHT?
  - Does the word you chose SOUND RIGHT?
  - Does the word you chose MAKE SENSE?

## First Grade Curriculum

### Math

Bennington Public Schools uses *Bridges in Mathematics*, a K–5 math program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In first grade, students focus on addition and subtraction, place value, and shapes. Throughout the year they:

- \*Add and subtract with numbers to 20, including with story problems
- \*Become fluent with addition and subtraction facts to 10
- \*Count to 120 and learn about place value (ones, tens, hundreds)
- \*Identify, sort, and draw shapes
- \*Fit shapes together to make other shapes, solve puzzles, and talk about fractions

Bridges uses visual models to make mathematics accessible to all learners. One way that children approach math is through pictures. When you talk with your child about their math work, it might sometimes seem unfamiliar or different than you remember. But there are still many ways you can help them explore math! By being open to learning and talking with your child, you can help your child develop strong skills and a love of math. Get more information and ideas about how to help your child at [www.mathlearningcenter.org/families](http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/families) .

## **Reading**

Using the *Wonders* series as the basis of our reading program, we offer various components to our reading instruction. These components are:

- \* Teacher Read Aloud
- \* Enjoyment of literature
- \* Modeling of literature behaviors
- \* Shared Reading
- \* Large group instruction
- \* Common text
- \* Teacher models application of skills and strategies
- \* Guided Reading
- \* Small group instruction
- \* Strategy instruction and practice
- \* Literature Study
- \* Small group instruction
- \* Literary interpretation and enjoyment
- \* Spelling
- \* Whole group instruction
- \* Words taken from weekly *Wonders* units
- \* Teaches phonics, fry words, vocabulary, and high frequency words

## **Keyboarding**

*Keyboarding Without Tears* will be implemented as the Keyboarding curriculum. Keyboarding instruction will be introduced in Media and additional practice will be provided in the classroom.

## **Writing**

Using the *Being a Writer Curriculum*, students will learn and apply elements from a variety of genres. These include:

- \* The Writing Community
- \* Getting Ideas
- \* Personal Narrative
- \* Nonfiction
- \* Poetry
- \* Opinion
- \* Revising the Writing Community

## **Handwriting**

The students will be practicing Zaner-Bloser manuscript. This will be done in their daily work.

## **Social Studies**

*Pearson/Scott Foresman Publishers All Together* first grade Social Studies curriculum includes map skills and citizenship lessons, biographies and cultural experiences as well as units titled:

- \* Time For School
- \* In My Community
- \* Work! Work! Work!

- \* Our Earth, Our Resources
- \* This Is Our Community
- \* Our Country, Our World

## **Science**

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt- ScienceFusion*, is a comprehensive, multimodal science program that provides all the digital tools teachers need to engage students in inquiry based learning. There are 10 units that meet the first grade state science standards.

- \* How Scientists work
- \* Technology All Around Us
- \* Animals
- \* Plants
- \* Environments
- \* Earth's Resources
- \* Weather and Seasons
- \* Objects in the Sky
- \* Forces and Energy

## **Some of our additional themes or units for Social Studies and Science are:**

- \* Health and Nutrition
- \* Fire Safety
- \* Patriotism and Citizenship
- \* Nocturnal Animals
- \* Native Americans and Pilgrims
- \* Holidays
- \* Polar Regions
- \* Martin Luther King Jr.
- \* Oceans
- \* Rain Forest
- \* President's Day

## **Specials**

Students will have daily specials that rotate with the specials schedule, not based on the day of the week. Specialists will also use a rubric throughout the year to assess students. These rubrics will be shared with you. Specialists available at parent teacher conferences.

## **Guidance and Counseling**

Guidance classes as well as small group lessons and individual guidance assistance are an integral part of the school curriculum. Guidance lessons are designed to promote student growth in three areas: social/emotional domain, academic/educational domain, and career/occupational domain. The school counselor works with staff and parents in various ways to support a positive school experience for all students.

## **Physical Education**

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain

the knowledge, understanding, and skills to practice healthy physical activities throughout their lives. All students are taught to work together and treat others with respect and good sportsmanship.

## Art

The elementary art curriculum encompasses the Art Elements and Design Principles in a comprehensive art education model and uses the Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards.

### Major Art Concepts for First Grade

**Line:** line direction (vertical, horizontal, diagonal, zigzag, curve) line movement (active, calm)

**Shape:** geometric (square, triangle, circle, rectangle), free-form

**Color:** color wheel, color mixing, secondary, warm, cool

**Space:** landscape (horizon line, foreground, background), location of items (around, above, below)

**Form:** sculpture

**Texture:** actual, visual

**Pattern:** with line, shape, or color

**Balance:** symmetry

**Emphasis:** focal point

## Spanish

Students will receive a “Spanish Squares” sheet at the beginning of each unit. It has 5 tasks or skills the students need to master by the end of the unit. Students are asked to practice the skills at home and return the individual squares signed when the skill is mastered.

Unit 1: Numbers 1-20

Unit 2: All Colors

Unit 3: Body Parts

*Find vocabulary lists, copies of assignments and Spanish Squares at:*

<http://bennington.ishareinfo.org/kadeshina/index.cfm>

## Music

General/Vocal Music

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Content Standards

Music lessons teach the following sequentially from Kindergarten through third grade, throughout the year and the sequence of grades.

\* Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

- High, medium, low ranges
- Sing a pentatonic song with pitch accuracy
- Sing from a varied repertoire of songs
- Sing songs from different cultures and different eras

\* Reading and Notation of Melody and rhythm

- Steady beat, no beat, fast, slow
- Short and long sounds, silence and sound
- Quarter notes, half notes, eighth notes, whole notes and corresponding rests, 2/4, 3/4, & 4/4 meters
- Space notes, line notes, melodic contour, upward, downward, pitch names
- Bar line, measure, double bar line, repeat sign, ties, phrases,
- Accent, staccato, marcato, legato, syncopation
- Loud, soft, pp through ff dynamic markings, cresc., decresc.

- Pentatonic scale, major scale
- Learn and use notes as pitches and rhythm on the music staff
- Recognize when melodies move by step, skip or repeated notes
- Learn pitch names
- Sharps, flats, naturals, treble clef, ledger lines
- \* Perform on unpitched instruments, recognize instruments by sight and sound
  - Play a steady beat on instrument
  - Play a rhythm to a known song
  - Use instruments properly
  - Play rhythm notation
  - Recognize instrument families of the orchestra and band
  - Introduce instruments from different cultures
- \* Introducing the structural components of form and harmony.
  - Same/ different, using pictures, icons, letter, patterns,
  - Call and response, question and answer, Introduction, Interlude
  - Sectional forms: AB, ABA, Rondo, Theme and Variations
  - Ostinato, round, countermelody, partner songs, harmony in 3rds & 6ths
- \* Composing, arranging and improvising melodies, rhythms, variations and accompaniments within specified guidelines as a class.
- Listening to, analyzing, evaluating and describing music and music performances and styles
  - Listening to many different genres of musical style
  - Listening to or performing music of various cultures
- \* Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

## **Library Media**

Technology is taught sequentially from Kindergarten through fifth grade. New skills are introduced at each grade level. Mastery of age appropriate skills begins in second grade and continues on. Performance indicators have been determined for each grade and checklists have been developed to track the growth of skills for each student.

First grade students are introduced to many technology skills including but not limited to:

- Log into and out of the network using correct user name
- Show proper care of equipment
- General computer knowledge
- Beginning keyboarding strategies
- Use cursor; enter key, backspace and arrow keys
- Proper way to exit a program
- Use of multimedia resources
- Beginning word processing skills
- Apply editing techniques (e.g. spell-check, copy, cut paste)
- Use of simple graphics
- Access Teacher web sites
- Maneuver within web-based resources
- Technology is used to promote curiosity and learning