

Orange Room First Grade Curriculum 2016-2017

Building a sense of community in which each child recognizes and realizes the importance of compassion, communication, respect, cooperation, and problem solving is central to the Orange Room class structure. The children have a variety of opportunities to direct their learning based on their natural curiosity and interests. The Orange Room curriculum is both theme and literature-based, incorporating the four core content areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Artistic expression using a variety of media is integrated into all of the four core content areas. The children are immersed in the themes with opportunities to transform the appearance of the classroom based on the theme. Children are encouraged to become "experts" and teach each other and other classes the thematic concepts covered in class. Diverse approaches are used in the presentation of content in order to incorporate the children's individual learning styles. Activities are hands-on and experiential. The children are encouraged to move at a pace that is right for them as individual learners. Developing a positive learning environment that supports and encourages a love of learning is an important goal in the Orange Room.

Community Circle

The Orange Roomers meet on the carpet after Math each day to go over the calendar, count the days of school, observe and record the weather, go over the schedule for the day, and discuss the morning question. Many calendar concepts are covered using both the English and Spanish languages. Children count in Spanish to find out what day it is. The date (day of the week, number, and month) is repeated in both languages. Spanish is also used when discussing types of weather. The calendar activities incorporate the following concepts: number recognition; writing the date; and recognizing and predicting patterns. Counting the days of school helps children become familiar with the concept of place value. The weather activities provide practice with reading a thermometer, determining the change in temperature from day to day, and forming and reading a graph of the weather each month. The children read the schedule as a class and learn to recognize the words that relate to daily events. The Morning Question provides the children with the opportunity to express and articulate their

feelings, ideas, and experiences in a non-threatening environment. Most Morning Questions relate to the theme and encourage discussion to enrich the children's understanding of thematic concepts. Community Circle is designed to set a positive tone for the day.

Math

BNS utilizes the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project curriculum, Everyday Mathematics, in addition to other math resources. The curriculum provides opportunities for problem solving and concept application through the use of games and hands-on routines. Everyday Mathematics is a spiraling curriculum in that it introduces new concepts and revisits these concepts at different points throughout the year and subsequent years. Other resources are used to supplement Everyday Mathematics based on the need for further review or extension of the concepts covered in the curriculum. The following is a list of the math concepts and skills that will be covered during the year in the First Grade Everyday Mathematics curriculum:

- Establish math routines
- Use tools for solving problems
- Compare numbers
- Order whole numbers
- Create and count tally marks
- Count by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Solve number stories
- Find equivalent names for numbers
- Identify and represent numbers using base-10 blocks
- Find complements of 10
- Add three numbers
- Solve doubles and near doubles facts
- Tell time to the hour and half-hour on analog and digital clocks
- Identify values of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills
- Create and extend visual patterns
- Problem solve using a number line
- Compare lengths
- Collect and organize data
- Read and interpret charts and graphs
- Identify place value up to 1,000
- Write whole numbers up to 1,000

- Show temperature on a Fahrenheit thermometer (daily calendar routine)
- Write fact families
- Compare geometric shapes by attributes
- Distinguish between defining and nondefining attributes of shapes
- Determine equal shares
- Divide shapes into equal parts and identify fractional parts of a region
- Identify tens and ones patterns
- Solve number-grid puzzles
- Add and subtract 2-digit numbers
- Solve "What's My Rule?" and Frames-and-Arrows problems

*The students are divided into Math groups based on their end-of-the-year Kindergarten evaluations. Groups will move through the concepts in the Everyday Mathematics curriculum at a pace that meets the needs of the students in each group. We will play math games the first Friday of each month to reinforce concepts covered in math.

Literacy Curriculum

The Orange Room Literacy Curriculum includes several individual components which work together to strengthen and build literacy skills.

A. Theme Book

The Orange Room uses a literature-based approach which highlights the theme through the use of a theme book each week. Each week a different book, based on the theme, is used to reinforce a variety of Language Arts skills and concepts. The teacher reads the theme book the first three days of the week. Mini-lessons, following or preceding the reading, incorporate the following concepts:

- Identifying the main idea of the story
- Making predictions before and during the reading
- Retelling story events using the structure of beginning, middle, and end
- Summarizing orally what was read

- Recognizing the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts
- Identifying and describing the setting of the story
- Answering who, what, when, where, why, and how questions
- Creating a timeline of events

After listening to the theme book, the children begin to illustrate and practice reading a "Little Book." This book is either a scaled down version of the theme book or the same text as the theme book. The children read and draw their own illustrations to match the text on each page. At the end of the week, the children meet in small reading groups to practice reading their "Little Books" orally. The purpose of "Little Books" is to effectively combine reading comprehension skills with decoding strategies in order to build confidence in reading as well as develop reading skills and fluency.

On the fourth day of each week, the children take turns retelling the story. This provides the teacher with an assessment of the children's reading comprehension skills and understanding of story development.

On the fifth day of each week, the children choose parts and act out the story. This approach allows children to "jump into the book" and develop an appreciation and love of literature.

B. Reading and Writing Workshop

Several approaches to literacy are incorporated into Reading and Writing Workshop.

1. Mini-lessons

Children are encouraged to approach reading by becoming "Reading Detectives" and looking for "clues" to decode and read unfamiliar words. After each "Reading Detective Clue" is introduced during a Mini-lesson, the clue is posted on a bulletin board in the Orange Room. Other lessons are based on first grade literacy objectives. Children exhibit their understanding of the concepts presented in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to: reading leveled books, creating and publishing class books, writing stories, composing poems, correcting

grammar and punctuation in sentences, and expressing themselves in writing.

2. Literacy Centers

The children are divided into small, leveled groups for Literacy Centers. The children rotate between five centers each week. The five centers include a Little Book center, a guided reading center, a literacy game center, a journal writing center, and a reading response center.

- **Little Book center**- the children read, decode, and illustrate their Little Books.
- **Guided Reading center**- the children go over their journal writing, read books at their reading level aloud, and respond to reading comprehension questions with the teacher.
- **Literacy Game center**- the children play games practicing a specific literacy skill or objective.
- **Journal Writing center**- the children practice expressing their thoughts and ideas in writing as well as practice their penmanship.
- **Reading Response center**- the children choose a book at their reading level to read. The children are encouraged to use the "Five Finger Rule" when choosing a book. If they cannot read more than five words on the first page, they are encouraged to choose different books that better fit their current reading levels. At the beginning of the year, the children read their books silently, with teacher support if needed. The children log the books they read in a Reading Response Record. As the year progresses, children are asked to complete Reading Response projects. The Reading Response projects are designed to reinforce and assess the children's reading comprehension skills.

3. Spelling and Word Study

The students are given a weekly spelling list based on their assessed developmental levels of spelling, exhibited on the Words Their Way Spelling Inventory. The book Words Their Way, developed and written by Donald R. Bear, Marcia Invernizzi, Shane Templeton, and Francine Johnston, provides the Word Study concepts used in the Orange Room. Word Study is a "developmental study of words by

features" (*Words Their Way*, p.182). Students work in pairs or small groups to complete word sorts, long and short vowel contrasts, consonant blends and digraphs practice, and word family studies. After working with their spelling words throughout the week at school and at home, a Spelling Try is given each Friday to assess the children's understanding and application of the week's spelling patterns. The Spelling Try consists of words from the weekly lists as well as words that are not on the lists, but that follow the same spelling patterns. The purpose of Word Study is to strengthen word knowledge. With the growth of word knowledge, skills associated with reading, writing, oral language, and comprehension are also strengthened.

C. Journal Writing

Students express their ideas in writing and meet individually with the teacher to read and edit their writing. Students are encouraged to complete journal entries independently. Children are expected and encouraged to spell unfamiliar words using their understanding of "Reading Detective Clues" and spelling patterns covered in Word Study, as well as high frequency word lists and invented spelling (spelling phonetically).

D. Handwriting

The children receive specific handwriting instruction using the *Zaner-Bloser First Grade Handwriting Book*. Children practice writing upper and lower-case letters appropriately. Handwriting practice is also incorporated into Reading and Writing Workshop.

E. Read Aloud

Two days a week the teacher reads to the children from a chapter book. Children are encouraged to relax, listen, reflect and create illustrations in their minds.

First Grade Literacy Objectives:

- Apply knowledge of how print is organized and read
- Identify isolated words and sentences in text
- Use phonetic strategies to self-correct reading errors when possible
- Recognize and read high-frequency words
- Accurately read common, irregularly spelled words
- Use beginning and ending consonants to decode one-syllable words
- Use two-letter consonant blends and digraphs to decode unfamiliar words
- Use word patterns to decode unfamiliar words
- Use end punctuation to guide oral reading
- Use pictures and context to assist meaning-making
- Self-check for meaning during reading
- Read leveled text with fluency and comprehension
- Answer who, what, when, where, and why questions after reading independently
- Recognize and decode compound words
- Use appropriate spacing of words and sentences
- Write legibly in manuscript on all assignments
- Generate pre-writing idea or plan
- Focus on one idea or topic when writing independently
- Capitalize the beginning of each sentence
- Capitalize proper nouns
- Use invented spelling and phonics to spell independently
- Use knowledge of beginning and end consonant sounds to spell unfamiliar words
- Use vowels (a,e,i,o,u and sometimes y) in each word when writing
- Recognize long and short vowel sounds when reading
- Recognize long and short vowel sounds when writing
- Use two-letter consonant blends and digraphs to spell unfamiliar words
- Represent each syllable of a word when writing independently
- Spell common, high-frequency words accurately
- Use complete sentence structure
- Punctuate using basic end punctuation (period, question mark, and exclamation point)

- Alphabetize words to the second letter
- Use descriptive vocabulary in writing
- Correctly spell assigned words on a weekly Spelling Try
- Use a dictionary to find unfamiliar words, with assistance if necessary

Theme Activities

The themes for the year are based on the children's interests and the Virginia Standards of Learning for Social Studies and Science for First Grade. The themes vary in length. Some themes may be covered in one week and others may be covered in three weeks. The length of the themes is based on the children's curiosity and enthusiasm for the subject matter. During Theme activities, the class engages in discussions, conducts experiments, and participates in hands-on, theme-related activities. The loft in the Orange Room is often a focal point for different themes. As the year progresses, the loft will transform into habitats or structures related to many of the themes. The children have an opportunity to explore and become immersed in the themes. They also assume the role of teacher and showcase their knowledge of the themes while giving tours and educating students from other classes, as well as parent visitors.

This year the following themes will be covered in the Orange Room:

August	Free to Be You and Me (Celebrating Individuality)
September	Communities Maps and Mapmaking
October	Seasonal Changes (Fall/Harvest) Appalachia (biology)
November	Appalachia (geology) Cherokee Nation
December	Native American Cultures
January	Space

	Polar Regions
February	Water/Matter Important Americans in History
March	Machines and Motion Exploring the Ocean
April	Exploring the Ocean What We Buy-Our Economy Plants
May	Rain Forest Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
June	School Fun Days!

Star-of-the-Week

For the first 15 weeks of the school year, each child has the opportunity to be the Star-of-the-Week. Three days a week, the Star-of-the-Week has 15 minutes to share something about him or herself. This exercise helps children gain valuable experience speaking in front of a group. The class community has an opportunity to gain an appreciation of and celebrate the individuality and uniqueness of each child.

Resident Expert

During the second half of the year, each child has the opportunity to be a Resident Expert. Each child chooses a Social Studies or Science subject he or she is interested in learning more about (preferably a subject that will not be covered in the Orange Room Themes). With family support, the child conducts an in-depth study of the subject and prepares three 15 minute presentations or activities related to the chosen subject. The child becomes the "expert" and teaches the class about his/her chosen topic.

Additional Subjects

Orange Roomers will receive regular instruction in Art, Physical Education, Spanish, and Music. Teachers specializing in these subjects provide the curriculum and instruction.

Assessment

Assessment in the Orange Room is both formal and informal. Formal assessments are used to assess progress in Reading, Math, and Spelling. The Houghton Mifflin Leveled Reading Assessment is used to assess the reading level of each student at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. The assessments used in Math are provided by both the teacher and the Everyday Mathematics curriculum. Words Their Way spelling inventories are given three times a year to assess the progressing spelling levels of each student. Spelling assessments (spelling tries) are given on a weekly basis. Informal assessments include teacher observations and anecdotal records as well as the assessment of skills and participation in small and large group discussions and activities. Assessment of Science and Social Studies concepts is gauged through project work and participation in class discussions and activities. Parent-teacher conferences are held three times during the school year to discuss the children's progress. A formal written evaluation is prepared at the end of the year and is reviewed in the final parent-teacher conference.