

Grade 1 Curriculum Guide

Mission and Philosophies of Swasey Central School

The mission of Swasey Central School is to prepare children for future learning and life experiences. Specifically, Swasey will provide children with knowledge, develop and support their capacity to learn, and strengthen the social and emotional skills they will need to succeed as middle school students and as members of their families, neighborhoods, and the world community.

To achieve its mission, Swasey Central School operates under the following philosophies:

Academic Growth and Continuous Improvement

We believe in high academic standards for all children. We should continually improve and renew our academic program so that all children reach their fullest potential.

Teaching at Swasey should be tied to specific learning goals based on New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks, SAU 16 curriculum guidelines, and other learning goals deemed relevant by the Swasey School community.

In addition to basic knowledge and academic skills, we should develop the skills (such as critical and analytical thinking) that empower children to pursue learning beyond the classroom. Teachers must understand each child's unique academic strengths and needs. The school should provide the resources and structure (such as small class size) to support that understanding.

Children learn best in a nurturing environment; a strength of Swasey Central School. We should maintain and strengthen this environment while challenging students to reach high standards. The school should provide learning materials and instructional strategies that are research based, current, and strongly tied to learning objectives. To meet learning objectives as children progress through Swasey School, the administrative and instructional teams should work together to build consistent strategies and programs across grades.

We believe in accountability through assessments of student performance that are efficient, relevant, and appropriate. The most powerful use of assessment is to improve curriculum and instruction so that all children reach high standards.

Social and Emotional Growth

In the Swasey School learning community, each member is responsible for the success of others. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators should respect each other and themselves, live by the school's rules, work cooperatively, use self knowledge for change, challenge themselves, and appreciate the ideas and experiences of others.

Community and Parent Involvement

With the goal of building strong partnerships, Swasey Central School's responsibilities to parents include inviting them to participate in decision-making; clearly explaining what is to be learned and how children are progressing; and assisting parents as they support their children's learning at home.

Parents' responsibilities to the school include making sure children come to school ready to learn and actively supporting children's learning in all parts of their lives. The school encourages parents to participate in other ways where possible, such as attending school events, participating in decision-making, and volunteering.

Swasey School has traditionally enjoyed the strong support of the community at large. We should continue to build that relationship by asking for community opinion, answering questions, and encouraging the community to learn about the school's mission and goals. We recognize that the school is part of a larger community with many diverse needs.

Homework

Homework in grade 1 involves a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes of work, once a week. First grade homework usually requires parent involvement.

Language Arts

First grade uses the Four Blocks Language Arts Framework.

Reading

During the course of the year, your child will be taught to:

- Read from the top to the bottom of a page and from the left to the right with a return sweep.
- Know that print conveys meaning.
- Use pre-reading skills in making predictions about a story based on cover, title, and illustrations.
- Identify the setting, characters, problem, and solutions in a story.
- Retell story events in sequence and make predictions.
- Understand simple cause and effect.
- Explore different types of literature.
- Be able to distinguish between fact and fiction.
- Use sound/symbol relationships to read and spell words.
- Develop word decoding strategies.
- Recognize rhyming patterns.
- Recognize a basic sight vocabulary list.
- Expand reading, writing, and speaking vocabulary.

The outcomes of the above should result in your child:

- Seeing him or herself as a reader.
- Self-selecting literature at a 'just right' level.
- Enjoying reading for pleasure.
- Beginning to read orally with expression and fluency.

Writing

During grade 1, your child will engage in writing activities using transitional and/or conventional spelling to compose and read back his/her own writing. Your child will write for a variety of purposes. The steps of the simple writing process will be taught including:

- Choosing and developing a topic.
- Recognizing that a narrative has a beginning, middle, and end.
- Beginning to self-edit his/her own writing.
- Participating in conferences with the teacher.
- Sharing his/her writing with peers.

A writing folder will be kept as a record of your child's progress in writing during the year.

Listening/Viewing/Speaking

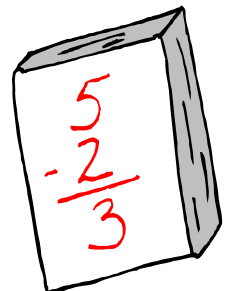
First graders will:

- Be able to respond orally in complete sentences.
- Remember and follow 3-step directions.
- Demonstrate good listening by looking at the speaker, being quiet, and maintaining self-control.
- Be able to express ideas and thoughts in a sequential manner.

Mathematics

First grade is implementing the Everyday Mathematics program.

During first grade, your child will be introduced to mathematics through a manipulative based program that incorporates mathematics into every day situations. The key concepts that your child will be exposed to include:



Problem Solving

- Solving story problems involving everyday mathematical situations.

Communication

- Writing number sentences for oral story problems.
- Relating everyday situations to mathematical ideas.

Reasoning

- Identifying information needed to solve story problems.
- Drawing conclusions from graphs.

Estimation

- Expanding and reinforcing the concept of estimating.

Number Sense

- Counting and writing the numerals 0 – 100.
- Demonstrating an understanding of one-to-one correspondence.
- Using place value to the hundreds place.
- Counting by 2's, 5's and 10's from any given number.

Computation

- Solving problems with missing addends.
- Striving towards automaticity of 100 addition and subtraction facts.

Measurement

- Telling time to the hour and the half-hour.
- Using a monthly calendar.
- Beginning to identify coins.
- Using non-standard measures to find length.
- Beginning to use a ruler to find length.

Fractions and Decimals

- Beginning to identify the number of equal parts in a whole object.
- Identifying $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$.

Patterns and Relationships

- Determining if a given number is greater than, less than, or equal to another number.
- Classifying objects by color, size, number, and shape.
- Identifying, creating, and extending patterns.
- Identifying objects that have the same shape.

- Understanding concepts of chance and probability.

Geometry

- Describing shapes by one characteristic.
- Seeing interrelationships between shapes.

Science

Trade books and hands-on materials are used to promote discovery and experimentation in the categories of life, earth, and physical science.

The topics covered in grade one science include:

- Life science – plants.
- Earth science – meteorology, air, and weather.
- **Physical science** – heat, light, and matter as related to weather.
- **Nutrition** – foods that comprise healthy meals and major food groups.
- Health and safety – differences between helpful and harmful substances, when medicine should be taken, including others in activities, the value of each of us as individuals and safety regarding traffic, school, home and emergencies. Dental health.

Social Studies

Through the first grade social studies program, the children will be introduced to topics that include:

- Our families.
- Families across the U.S.A.
- Families around the world.
- Map and globe skills.



Technology

The use of technology as an educational resource should be an integral component of all curricula. We desire to use technology as an

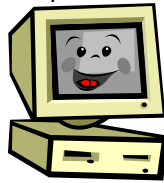
information acquisition, processing and productivity tool.

A two-tier approach is used to provide our students with opportunities to acquire and reinforce technology skills:

1. Regularly scheduled whole-group instruction in the computer resource center.
2. Individual skills practice, research, and writing on classroom computers.

The focus in grade one is on the following skills:

- Identifying and practicing principles of basic computer care.
- Identifying major components of a computer (monitor, disk drive, CD-ROM, mouse, keyboard, printer).
- Demonstrating proper start-up and shut-down procedures on the computer.
- Demonstrating proper handling of removable media (disks, CD-ROM).
- Encouraging use of two hands on the keyboard.
- Identifying letters and numbers on the keyboard.
- Demonstrating proper use of special keys on the keyboard (Enter/Return, space bar, Escape, Shift, Caps Lock, arrows, Back Space).
- Independently accessing a variety of software applications.
- With assistance, saving work to the hard drive or disk.
- With assistance, using a drawing or presentation program to create pictures.
- Introducing how to use a word processing program.
- With assistance, using appropriate simulation and problem-solving software.
- Identifying the Internet as a source of information.
- Being introduced to simple navigation skills for basic Internet use.
- With assistance, creating a whole-class t
slideshow using a presentation application.



Physical Education

The physical education program is designed to meet the needs of all children. Wellness and the concept of lifelong fitness are interwoven throughout the year. Students in grade one will:

- Explore a variety of locomotor skills – walking, running, jumping, hopping, galloping, skipping, and more.
- Be introduced to general game procedures with the emphasis on cooperation, not competition.
- Explore various pieces of equipment using manipulative skills.
- Be introduced to basic stunts and tumbling.
- Reinforce spatial awareness through rhythmic movement and dance.
- Be introduced to good sportsmanship.

Art

First grade students will:

- Be able to identify the primary colors – red, yellow, and blue.
- Be introduced to the seven elements of art, focusing on line and shape.
- Be introduced to famous artists and arts and crafts of other cultures.
- Experiment with drawing, painting, collage, clay and printing.
- Learn to communicate and express thoughts and feelings through art.
- Learn how to see with “artist’s eyes”.

Music

Our music program is designed for all children with each contributing to his or her improvisation is encouraged to develop creative thinking. Integrating with core subjects and performance is also a part of the music experience. Skills that are concentrated on in grade one include her ability. Using the MacMillan text Music and You combined with an Orff-Schulwerk approach to teaching, children in all grades learn the elements

of music through movement, speech, song, and playing instruments. :

- Practice in matching pitch using tone drills and echo songs.
- Distinguishing between beat and rhythm using movement and instruments.
- Singing a varied repertoire that develops students' vocal range.
- Distinguishing between high and low, fast and slow, and loud and soft.
- Dramatic play through game songs and recorded music.
- Developing playing skills with rhythm band instruments.

Library

First grade students will receive library class instruction once a week. Topics include:

- Media manners – proper behavior in the library.
- Library procedures – how to search for, select, and check out a book.
- The proper care of books.

- Parts of a book – the cover, spine, dust jacket, spine label, date due slip, and title page.
- Library terms – author, illustrator, illustrations, call number, publisher, copyright date, easy books, picture books, fiction, non-fiction, biography, and magazine.
- Arrangement of easy, fiction, and non-fiction books.
- Finding easy books by a specific author.
- Literature skills – attentive listening, relating stories to one's own experiences, listening for details, and interpreting illustrations.
- Recalling and retelling stories.
- Participation in storytelling, singing songs, listening to poetry, and finger plays.
- Introduction to a variety of authors and illustrators.
- Introduction to various Medal books.
- Introduction to the online catalog.

