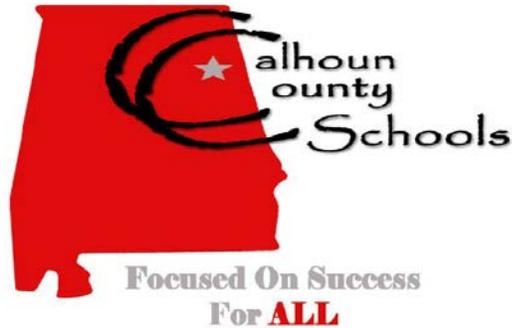


# Calhoun County Schools



## First Grade Parent Guide

### Mission:

*It is the mission of the Calhoun County School System to reach and promote the needs of every child in terms of their abilities, learning styles, interests, and diversities. Working in collaboration with all stakeholders, the Calhoun County School System challenges all students to reach their highest levels of achievement through rigorous, high-quality instruction while providing a safe and positive environment.*

### Vision:

*Every School Focused on Success of ALL Children Every Child A Graduate-Every Child Prepared for College/Work/Adulthood in their future.*

## **First Grade Language Arts Curriculum Overview**

Calhoun County students in grades K-12 will learn from the Alabama College and Career Readiness State Standards. These Alabama Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, and Science are the culmination of an extended, broad-based effort to fulfill the charge issued by the states to create the next generation of K-12 standards in order to help ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school. The Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards place a high emphasis on nonfiction writing and reading informational texts.

### **English Language Arts and Literacy**

In First grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. Your child will continue to learn and practice recognizing the sounds that make up words and will be able to sound out more complex words. Such foundational skills are necessary and important components of developing proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend a wide range of materials. Students will learn to think about what they read and talk about the main ideas of simple stories. As they write and speak, First graders will learn to use language appropriately; this includes using complete sentences and spelling words with increasing accuracy.

- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Describing characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
- Reading different types of text – fiction and non-fiction
- Getting facts and information from different writings and readings
- Writing about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing
- Participating in shared research and writing projects (e.g., exploring a number of “how-to” books and using them to write a sequence of instructions)
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion
- Describing people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and with complete sentences
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations

- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g. deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball)

- Learning to think about finer distinctions in the meanings of near-synonyms (e.g., marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking)

**When you talk to the teacher about reading,** do not worry about covering everything. Keep focused on the most important topics. In First Grade, these include:

- Reading grade-level text with understanding and fluency

- Learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from books he or she reads and listens to

Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

## Mathematics

In First grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to improve speed and accuracy adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g.,  $17 - 8$ ). Another important goal in First grade is adding with a sum of 100 or less; this will rely on understanding what the digits mean in a number such as 63 (namely, 63 is six tens and three ones). Working with multi-digit addition this year will set the stage for 2nd grade, when your child will be working with three-digit numbers and adding and subtracting with larger numbers.

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")

- Adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less, for example by using strategies based around the number 10 (e.g., to solve  $13 - 4$ , one can start with 13, subtract 3 to reach 10, and then subtract 1 more to reach 9)

- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g.,  $2 + 5$ ,  $7 - 5$ )

- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)

- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g.,  $38 + 5$ ,  $29 + 20$ ,  $64 + 27$ ,  $80 - 50$ )

- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

**When talking to your child’s teacher about math keep the conversation focused,** do not worry about covering everything. In first grade, these include:

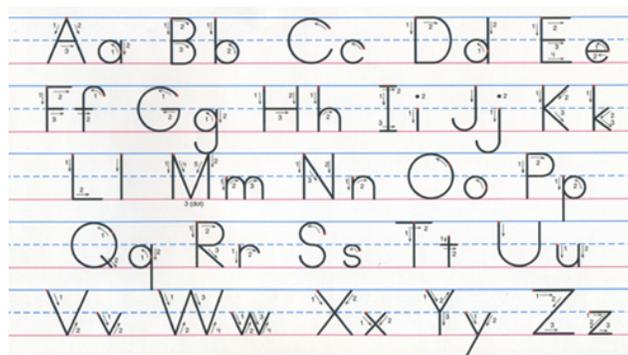
- Adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (this will not be written work; ask the teacher for his or her observations of your child’s progress in this area)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems

Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

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## Handwriting

**Manuscript handwriting is practiced in First Grade in Calhoun County Schools. Manuscript letters are taught explaining and demonstrating to students how letters are drawn as various lines, half circles and circles. A sample of the upper and lower case letters in Manuscript is below. You may practice Manuscript letter formation with your child to help with writing.**



## Writing

<b>Emergent</b>	<b>Early Developing</b>	<b>Developing</b>
Beginning of First Grade	Middle of First Grade	End of First Grade/Beginning of Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a relationship between drawing and print.</li> <li>• Adds details to drawing.</li> <li>• Writes 1 or 2 sentences focused on a topic.</li> <li>• Writes in the way one would speak.</li> <li>• Writes left to right and top to bottom.</li> <li>• Uses upper and lowercase letters indiscriminately.</li> <li>• Uses spacing between words inconsistently.</li> <li>• Spells names and familiar words correctly.</li> <li>• Uses temporary spelling.</li> <li>• Begins to read own writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates drawings and writing to create a more meaningful text.</li> <li>• Drawings show a sequence of events.</li> <li>• Writes a few short, patterned, repetitive sentences focused on a topic.</li> <li>• Writes about familiar topics and experiences.</li> <li>• Shows evidence of using language from books.</li> <li>• Writes left to right across several lines.</li> <li>• Uses spacing between words consistently.</li> <li>• Spells simple words and some high frequency words correctly.</li> <li>• Uses temporary spelling with some phonetic elements.</li> <li>• Uses capital letters for names and the beginning of sentences.</li> <li>• Uses periods correctly.</li> <li>• Uses question marks and exclamation points inconsistently.</li> <li>• Reads own writing with fluency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses drawings to enhance meaning of writing.</li> <li>• Writes several sentences about a topic.</li> <li>• Writes in complete sentences.</li> <li>• Writes in a logical sequence.</li> <li>• Uses list-like details and descriptive language.</li> <li>• Uses vocabulary appropriate for the topic.</li> <li>• Spells many high frequency words correctly.</li> <li>• Uses temporary spelling that can generally be read by others and is moving toward conventional spelling.</li> <li>• Uses capital letters and end punctuation correctly and consistently.</li> <li>• Begins to write with a sense of audience.</li> </ul>

## Homework Helpers

- Create a consistent, quiet, and uninterrupted place for your child to study.
  - Sit down with your child to assist whenever needed.
- Allow your child to communicate understanding or questions about what they are learning.
  - Conversations with your child go a long way.
- Model good reading habits and discuss the importance of reading.
- Visit the public library and allow your child to check out books.
  - COMMUNICATE with your child's teacher and school.

## **Recommended Books For First Grade:**

Once Upon a Banana - Jennifer Armstrong

Berenstain Bear's New Pup - Stan Berenstain

Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree - Stan Berenstain

The Day I Had to Play with My Sister - Crosby Bonsall

Piggie Crosby Bonsall Bathtime for Biscuit (series) - Alyssa Capucilli

The Octopus - Denys Cazet

Big Egg - Molly Coxe

Pirate School - Cathy Dubowski

Best Nest - Philip Eastman

Big Dog—Little Dog - Philip Eastman

Go Dog Go - Philip Eastman

Fred and Ted Go Camping - Peter Eastman

Danny and the Dinosaur - Syd Huff

Pinky and Rex and the Bully - James Howe

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom - Bill Martin

Tiny Goes to the Library - Carrie Meister

The Nose Book - Al Perkins

The Cat in the Hat - Dr. Seuss

Green Eggs and Ham - Dr. Seuss