

RATIONALE

The basic activities in an effective English Language Arts program is to equip students to combine a variety of sequentially acquired skills to derive meaning from text and communication. The first grade teacher guides students through an ELA program to help them learn, practice, apply, and integrate specific skills so that they can become independent readers and writers. However, students need to go beyond basic activities to become proficient readers, creative writers, and expressive speakers who can benefit from the pleasures, inspirations, and knowledge gained from knowing how to read and effectively communicate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first grade ELA course has four main components: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. The ELA curriculum provides the learner with a foundation on which to build. Various approaches are used to integrate all components.

IMPORTANT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Reading:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of literature and informational texts
2. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print
3. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)
4. Know and apply first grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
5. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Written Communication:

1. Write opinion and narrative pieces and informative/explanatory texts
2. Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing
3. Participate in shared research and writing projects

Speaking and Listening:

1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners, peers, and adults
2. Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says to gather additional information

Language:

1. Use the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
2. Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
3. Determine the meaning of unknown words based on grade 1 reading and content

EVALUATION

First grade students will be evaluated using a variety of formal and informal assessments which includes teacher observations, portfolios, individual testing, standardized tests, and holistic scoring of student writing.