

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH FIRST GRADE QUICK START PARENT GUIDE

Mission

Never Stop Innovating

Vision

We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Formula for Character

Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Empathy

First Grade Team

Ms. Bench, Ms. Bohnsack, Ms. McAninch, Mrs. Thomas

Daily Schedule

The first grade classes are picked up by the teachers at 7:30am and classes start at 7:40am with morning announcements followed by the Classroom Meeting/Community Time. Students arriving after 7:40 are marked tardy. Please be aware that our schedule may differ slightly in the 21-22 school year. You will be updated of any changes to the schedule by your child's teacher at back to school night.

7:30am-7:40am	Soft Start
7:40am-8:00am	Classroom Meeting/Community Time
8:00am - 9:15am	Math
9:15am-10:00am	Specials
10:00-10:20	Phonics/Grammar
10:20-10:55	Writing
10:55-11:40	Lunch and Recess
11:40-1:30	Literacy
1:30-2:15	Stem (Science, Social studies, engineering)
2:15-2:25	Closing meeting and dismissal

2:25	Dismissal
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Instructional Assistants (Mrs. Gimbel)

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a full time instructional aide that is dedicated to 1st grade. The instructional assistant provides additional support for both students and their teachers each and every day. Instructional assistants work either in small groups or one-on-one to offer support as needed. Our assistants are extremely valued and we expect that they are respected as any other adult on campus.

Clothing

Other than the standard dress code for STEM, there are some broader suggestions for school clothing for your First Grade student. The playground is equipped with monkey bars, rock wall, climbing ladders and slides all on a mulch area surrounded by black top and artificial turf. Although there is no requirement for closed toed shoes in the dress code, it may not be safe for students to wear flip flop sandals or open toed shoes while enjoying the playground and its equipment. It will be to the discretion of the aides, instructional assistants or teachers on recess duty as to whether or not your students' clothing or footwear could be a potential threat to their safety on the equipment. Also, please make sure that your student has appropriate outerwear for the day's weather. During winter months, warm coats, gloves, hats and boots will be necessary to enjoy their recesses outdoors. When there is snow on the ground, students will not be allowed to walk in snowy areas without wearing snow boots.

Supplies Required

In the fall, prior to the beginning of the school year, parents will receive a school supply list. Additional items needed are: backpack, water bottle, comfortable shoes, as the students do go outside for both morning snack and lunch recess.

Water Bottles (Students are required to bring a water bottle daily during Covid)

We encourage students to carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Lunch

Your student may bring a packed lunch from home or choose to have a hot lunch provided by Douglas County Nutrition Services. Please make sure your child has an appropriate amount of food to be consumed in the allotted time for lunch, as well as any and all utensils your student will need to consume their lunch, ie., spoons, forks, and/or napkins. Students may bring food to be warmed up in the microwaves by an aide or instructional assistant. They are also available to assist your student with opening their

lunch items. Please keep in mind, there are likely 100 first grade students dining in the cafeteria and the lunch period lasts approximately 20 minutes. Water, eating utensils, napkins and condiments are available in the cafeteria for students. If your student needs assistance with heating up food, opening lunch items and getting utensils, etc., it greatly cuts into the time they are allotted for consuming their lunch. Please keep this in mind when packing your students lunch. Emphasis should be made in getting your student to be able to independently open lunch boxes, plastic food containers, straws, plastic and foil packaging/shrink wrap etc..

Lunch Numbers

When ordering a hot lunch from Nutrition Services, your student will be required to enter a six digit “lunch number” into a typical 10-key number pad. This “lunch number” is in fact your students DCSD (Douglas County School District) student ID number. This number will follow your student to any school they attend within DCSD. Instructional assistants and aides are also available to assist your student with entering their lunch numbers, however emphasis should be made to have your student be able to complete this task independently in time.

Snacks

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy at least one (1) snack per day at their designated snack recess in the morning. It is encouraged that you send your student with a snack daily and that it be nutritional in value. It is very hard to concentrate and learn at school when the student is hungry. If your student will be enjoying a hot lunch from Nutritional Services, you should still send your student in with a nutritional snack for the day. Emphasis from both teachers and instructional assistants, will be put on eating snacks first and then playing when done. Snacks may not be shared between students due to possible food allergies.

Use of Technology

Technology will be utilized in the classroom on a daily basis. Various technologies will be used by your student over many subjects including math, literacy, science and engineering, with the assistance of the classroom teacher and instructional assistant. It will also be used to facilitate independent and small group activities or lessons throughout the day. Students will be instructed on proper use and care of our school technology resources. Basic understanding of using any technical applications and navigating websites will help your student in using technology in the classroom and getting the most of this valuable classroom resource. Websites we use in the classroom and may be accessed at home include LiteracyFootprints, Spelling City, Zearn, Prodigy,

Google Classroom, National Geographic Kids, Tynker, and Nearpod. Login information will be given to your student from their classroom teacher.

Literacy Rotations

Every day students will take part in literacy rotations and guided reading (centers). They will vary from time to time usually consisting of two teacher assisted centers and two to three independent or student driven centers. At these centers students may also engage in applications such as Spelling City, iReady, and LiteracyFootprints.

Math Rotations

Students are assessed on many standards of mathematics in the beginning of the year. Through this assessment we are able to analyze where they are mathematically so their needs will be better met. Similarly to literacy, students will work in small groups either with a teacher, instructional assistant, or independently. At the independent centers, students will work individually or in small groups on a skill based task or game further reinforcing math skills. Technology is sometimes used to reinforce skills taught as well. Examples of technology used are applications such as Zearn and Prodigy.

Math First Grade Standards

Number and Quantity

Students will be able to count to 120, starting at any number, understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent amounts of tens and ones, compare two two-digit numbers based on meanings of the tens and ones digits, add within 100, mentally find 10 more and 10 less, and subtract multiples of 10.

Algebra and Functions

Students will be able to add and subtract within 20 to solve word problems, solve word problems that call for adding 3 numbers within 20, understand subtraction as an unknown-addend problem, apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract, relate counting to addition and subtraction, add and subtract within 20, demonstrating fluency for addition and subtraction within 10, understand the meaning of the equal sign, and determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true or false, and determine the unknown whole number in an addition or subtraction equation relating three whole numbers.

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

Students will be able to order three objects by length, express the length of an object as a whole number of length units, tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks, and organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories.

Geometry

Students will be able to distinguish between defining attributes versus non-defining attributes, compose 2D and 3D shapes, and partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares.

Writing

First graders are authors! Each day, students will compose at least one page in the book they are creating. Students will develop skills throughout the year reinforcing basic letter writing, full sentences using upper and lowercase letters appropriately, proper word usage, adding details, and necessary punctuation skills. Students will learn several styles of writing including narrative, informative, and persuasive.

Language Arts

Oral Expression and Listening

Students will be able to participate in collaborative conversations, ask and answer questions about key details in a text, or what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood, describe people, places, things, and events, add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions, produce complete sentences, and give and follow simple two-step directions.

Reading for All Purposes

Students will be able to fluently read grade appropriate text, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, use key details to answer questions about the text, retell the story, describe characters in the story, and make predictions. Students will also be able to demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds and know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

Writing and Composition

Students will be able to write an opinion supported by reasons, write informative/explanatory texts by naming a topic, providing related details, and giving the audience a sense of closure, recount real or imagined, sequenced events that include details and a sense of closure, and use appropriate grammar, spelling, capitalization,

and punctuation.

Research and Reasoning

Students will be able to participate in shared research and writing projects, write or dictate questions for inquiry, use text features, identify a clear and significant purpose for research, and recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Science and Engineering

Students will have science and engineering time each day. Learning will be done in many different ways including whole group instruction as well as small group or individual projects. Students are taught basic scientific methods and will plan out and construct various engineering challenges. Students will learn about the weather, plants, sounds and vibrations, animals and life cycles, and patterns in the sky, to name a few. Science and engineering are often also integrated into our literacy times in order for students to expand their knowledge on a particular topic.

Social Studies

- *History* ***past and present***

Students will be able to ask questions and discuss ideas about patterns and chronological order of events from the past, identify similarities and differences between themselves and others, and discuss common and unique characteristics of different cultures.

- *Geography* ***communities and maps***

Students will be able to locate places and spaces using geographic tools and describe the characteristics of a community and how they are influenced by the environment.

- *Economics* ***money***

Students will be able to identify the goods and/or services that different types of businesses produce in the community, give examples of different types of jobs held by family members and/or individuals in the local community, plan how to spend, share, and save money, discuss ways to earn or receive money, and identify coins and find the value of a collection of two coins.

- Students will participate in an individual project where they either sell a good they have created or service they will provide. They will sell their goods or service in the first grade market to their peers in first grade and other grades as well. (Paper money is used)

- **Civics** **leaders and responsibilities**

Students will be able to describe the characteristics of responsible leaders, identify the attributes of a responsible team member, demonstrate the ability to be both a leader and team member, and identify and explain the relevance of notable civic leaders, symbols, places, and holidays.

Specials Rotations

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education and Chinese language and culture. The special classes rotate every week.

Field Trips

First Grade classes will have at least 3-4 off site field trips in a school year. Field trips are a great hands on learning experience for your student. This provides some of the best school memories and gives students the opportunity to explore and reinforce lessons outside of the classroom. Students will be provided bus transportation to/from these trips. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for the field trips. Teachers will create an online sign up and volunteers will be chosen on a first come first serve basis. Students will be required to bring their own disposable sack lunch and disposable water bottle.

Birthday Celebrations

We love to celebrate your student's birthday with the whole class. With advance notice to the classroom teacher, you may bring in an edible treat or goodie bag to share with the class; however, this is not a requirement. If so, please check with the teacher beforehand in case allergies a student in the class has food allergies.

Homework

Your child will bring home a book bag daily. Please have your child read 1-2 books from their bag every night and send the book bag back to school the next day. After reading, please help your student practice comprehension skills by retelling the story and/or identifying important details in the text. A reading log will also be signed nightly as well.

Other homework may be assigned by individual teachers and sometimes varies.

Volunteering

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the Teacher and to be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. There are limited opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, so please remember to allow other parents

to sign up for volunteer opportunities as well. If interested, please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

First Grade Spartans!

Yes we are!

We look forward to working with you this year.