

# Dear Parent,

We're excited to have your child in First Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.



This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Mathematics.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,  
The First Grade Teachers

## In every grade, we teach Mathematics skills that will help students:

### Numbers and Operations

- Develop number concepts and skills, from counting to paper and pencil calculations.
- Estimate.
- Use calculators and computers when appropriate.
- Solve problems using basic calculations.

### Algebra

- Explore and record patterns.
- Represent patterns and relationships using tables, graphs and algebraic symbols.
- Solve problems by representing patterns and relationships using tables, graphs and algebraic symbols.

### Measurement

- Use the correct measurement tools and units to accurately measure and describe their world.

### Geometry

- Explore and identify one, two and three dimensional geometric shapes.
- Describe and classify one, two and three dimensional geometric shapes.
- Construct one, two and three dimensional geometric shapes.
- Use geometry knowledge to solve problems.

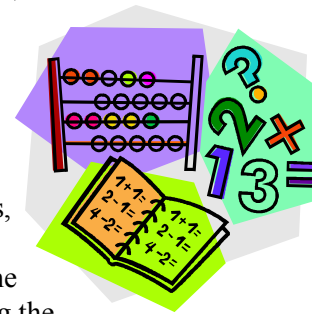
### Data and Probability

- Collect, organize data in charts and graphs.
- Interpret data represented in charts, graphs.
- Collect, organize, and interpret data to solve problems, show relationships and make predictions.

## In First Grade, we teach Mathematics skills that will help your child:

### Numbers and Operations

- Count to 110 by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's starting from any number.
- Count to 500 by 100's and 10's.
- Use ordinal numbers to identify positions (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- Read and write numbers 1 through 110.
- Understand that a number to the right of another number on the number line is bigger, numbers to the left are smaller.
- Identify 'one more than,' 'one less than,' '10 more than' and 10 less than' for any number up to 100.
- Count backwards by 1's starting from any number between 1 and 110.
- Explore place value (ex: 24 is 2 tens and 4 ones).
- Add and subtracting whole numbers using manipulatives, counting up/down from the number, using the number line or touch point math.
- Practice all addition facts up to 10 + 10 and solving the related subtraction facts.
- Add three, one-digit numbers.
- Represent problem situations involving addition and subtraction by using objects, drawing pictures and writing simple number sentences.



### Algebra

- Create and describing patterns using numbers, shape, and size.
- Predict the next element in a simple repeating pattern (square, square, circle, square...AABBAA...).
- Find missing values ( $8 + 1 = ?$ ).

### Measurement

- Estimate and measure lengths of objects in non-standard units (using paper clips, etc. to measure length).
- Compare lengths in terms of shorter, longer, longest, tallest, etc.
- Practice telling time to the hour and half hour with both analog (with hands) and digital clocks.
- Learn denominations of coins and bills and using them in a classroom 'store.'
- Tell amount of money in cents up to \$1.00.

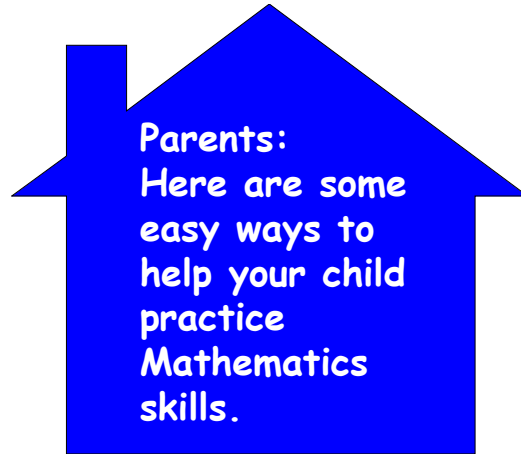


### Geometry

- Create common two and three-dimensional shapes and discuss their characteristics.
- Describe positions of objects using words such as 'above, below, behind, in front of, etc.).

### Data and Probability

- Collect and organize data to use in pictographs (1 'picture' in a graph equals 1 object).
- Read and tell information one can find when reading a graph.



### Numbers and Operations

- Practice counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's starting from any number.
- Practice skills such as reading and writing numbers 1 through 110.
- Count backwards by 1's starting from any number between 1 and 110.
- Use pennies, M&M's, buttons, etc. to add and subtract numbers. (8 buttons take away 2 buttons = ? etc.).
- Write out simple addition/subtraction problems for your child to solve.
- Give your child simple everyday situations. "We put 4 forks on the table for our family. Three more people come for dinner. How many forks do we need now?"

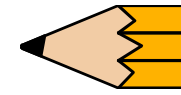


### Algebra

- Do simple problems such as  $8 - ? = 7$ , etc.

### Measurement

- Measure objects or distances using crayons, pencils, size of shoe to determine size of things/places in the house.
- Use a watch/clock to practice telling time. (You can make one using a paper plate and attaching 'hands' with a brad.)
- Shopping is a good time to practice using money! Let your child 'pay' for the ice cream cone, gum, etc. and talk about which coins he/she is using and how much change should be received.

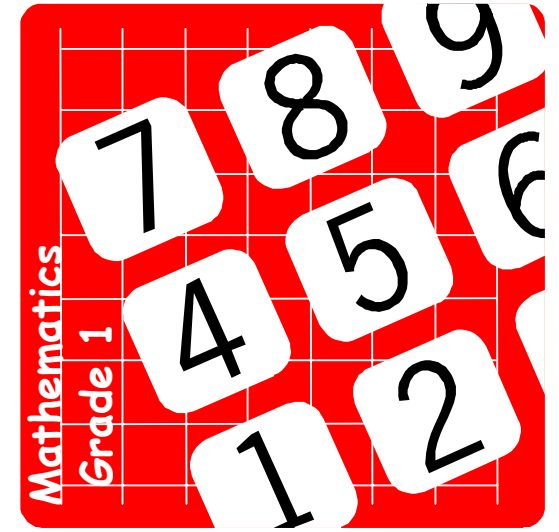


### Geometry

- Look for 'shapes' in common objects around the house. Cheese may be a triangle, clocks may be circles, balls as spheres, etc.

### Data and Probability

- Sort objects like buttons and candy by color, type, or shape.
- Sort a small bag of M&Ms by color and place each color in a straight line. Ask your child, "Which color has the most? The least?"



Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In First Grade,  
we're teaching  
your child  
important  
mathematics  
skills.

*What are these skills?*

*How can you help your child  
practice them?*

...exceptional,  
personalized education

**For more good ideas, ask your  
child's teacher, or contact:**  
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Michigan • 48189  
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>