

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 Science.

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.

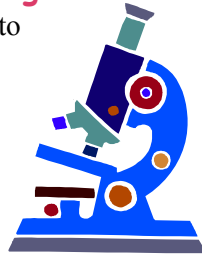
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The First Grade Teachers

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

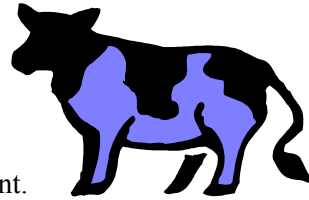
Learn by investigating

- Use scientific methods to ask questions, conduct investigations using technology, and gather, analyze, and communicate information.



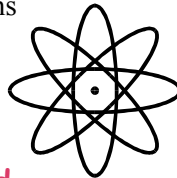
Understand living things

- Understand the structure and function of living things, their systems and how living things interact with the environment.



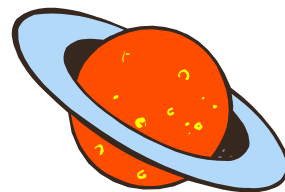
Understand natural forces

- Understand the interactions between matter, energy, forces, and motion.



Understand earth and space

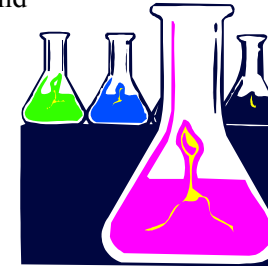
- Understand the cycles and systems of the Earth, solar system and universe.



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

Learn by investigating

- Ask "what happens when" questions.
- Work individually or in small groups to complete an investigation or an experiment and then share what was found with others.
- Use the correct tools and equipment to gather data.
- Make hypothesis (a testable predication) as to what will occur during an investigation.
- Communicate results through writing, drawing pictures and graphing.
- Discover similar results by repeating the experiment several times in the same manner.
- Give good reasons for a conclusion based on proof from experiments.



Understand living things

- Understand that organisms, including people, have basic needs which include air, water, food, living space and shelter.
- Observe characteristics of animals such as horns, claws, eyes, beaks, teeth, feet, legs, backbone, feathers, fur, support, movement, food getting and protection.
- Compare and contrast familiar living things using physical characteristics such as size, color, type of teeth, and covering (fur, feathers, scales, etc.).

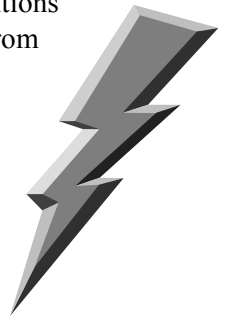
- Describe the life cycles of familiar living things such as frogs, butterflies, and plants. Also know the life-cycle stages; hatch, egg, birth, larva, pupa, and death.
- Describe the parts and function of selected seed plants such as roots, stems, leaves, and fruits.
- Know that the characteristics of living things are passed on from parents to offspring.

Understand natural forces

- Measure and describe objects around us.
- Describe magnetic attraction and force, the position of strongest magnetism, and the uses of magnets. Also describe how a compass and a magnet are alike.
- Explain how pushes or pulls (force) are needed to stop or change the direction of a moving object.
- Explore how rough or smooth surfaces can affect how an object moves.
- Explain how the size and shape of an object can affect how it moves.

Understand earth and space

- Describe weather conditions and how they change from day to day, season to season and over long periods of time. Use Michigan's weather as an example.
- Explain safety precautions during severe weather conditions.
- Understand how water exists on earth in different states such as dew (liquid) and ice (solid).



Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Learn by investigating

- Do an experiment with your child and enter it in the school Science Fair (eg: What happens if a plant is put in a closet without sunlight?)
- Use simple scientific tools such as a magnifying glass, binoculars, or rulers to observe nature.



Understand living things

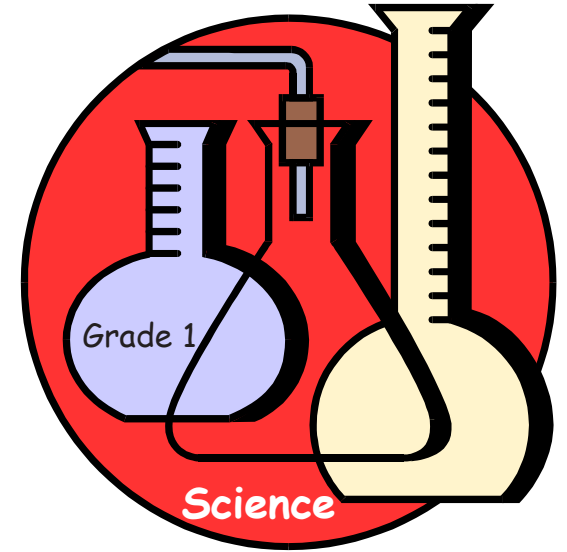
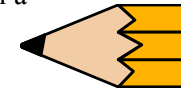
- Observe and discuss what you see when you and your child take a walk/visit a zoo, etc.
- Watch the Discovery Channel on television together.
- Visit the Hands On Museum, Sea World, Dominos Farms, Kensington Park.
- Plant seeds and watch how they grow.
- Keep a log of how a tadpole, puppy, etc. changes over time.

Understand natural forces

- Use magnets to determine what objects it will attract. Discuss the characteristics of those objects.
- Use wind-up toys to observe motion and forces. Change the surface on which the wind-up toy is moving to demonstrate friction.

Understand earth and space

- Record the weather daily on a calendar.
- Listen to the weather forecast on the radio and television.




Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In First Grade,
we're teaching
your child
important
discovery 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:
Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>