

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 Social Studies.

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 Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key, historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

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

Express informed opinions

- Complete a survey about characteristics of our families and working as a class to create a graph of all the families and answer specific questions about the graph.
- Gather information about a family tradition by interviewing family members.
- Describe a tradition orally, in writing, or by presentation.



Think historically

- Understand the difference between past, present, and future.
- Read about individuals from history and tell the name of the individual, the time frame in which the person lived, and how the person showed his/her good character.
- Re-tell events from biographies of people/families in the past and how they helped change society.
- Read about a one-room schoolhouse and describe a day at school long ago.
- Place events of children's lives, and the lives of their parents, in chronological order.

Describe our world

- Use maps of Whitmore Lake, Michigan, U.S. and the World to identify the places/peoples/cultures we are studying.
- Listen to non-fiction stories about other cultures and relate them to our own.

- Take a walking tour of the area surrounding the school and create a symbolic map of the area.
- Create a map of the school building, read it, and discuss the reasons for the locations of rooms/cafeteria/offices.
- Study a map of another school and compare it to our own, find the similarities and differences in how we use our spaces.
- Read and discuss how families in various cultures are similar or different.

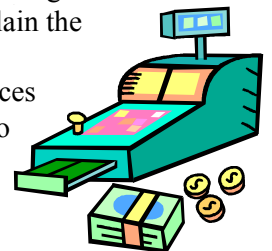
Be effective citizens

- List why we need rules.
- Describe fair ways for making decisions about the rules we use in our classroom.
- Compare the enforcement of classroom rule with that of a law.
- Discuss unfair rules and how they can be changed.



Make informed economic decisions

- Find combinations of coins needed to buy a good or service.
- Select a good or service to be sold at school and decide which things will be needed to make it.
- Decide how to price a good or service and explain the reasons.
- Learn the differences between those who make an item and those who buy it.





Express informed opinions

- Talk about what makes your family special.

Think historically

- Have your child “interview” a relative and ask how their life was the same/different than his or hers.
- Talk about your family traditions and discuss why you do the special things you do when you celebrate a holiday.
- Help your child make a photo album of his/her pictures and put them in chronological order.
- Visit Greenfield Village or museums and discuss the differences between “then” and “now.”
- Discuss with your child how your choices in your family affect his or her life.

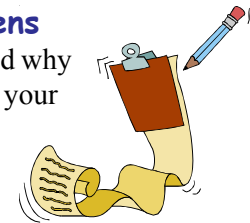


Describe our world

- Use a real map to locate where you might go on a trip or where a family member lives.
- Create a simple map of your home/your child’s room or backyard.

Be effective citizens

- Discuss with your child why rules are necessary in your family.
- Encourage behavior that is kind to others.
- Allow your child to experience the consequences when s/he does not abide by ordinary rules.
- Remind your child what “good choices” are.



Make informed economic decisions

- Give your child situations in which s/he can decide which object is more important to purchase.
- Discuss the value of a decision your child might make when purchasing an item.



In First Grade,
we’re teaching
your child
important
citizenship
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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