A summary of what children should know and be able to do and ways for families to increase learning at home.

Parent Guide to Learning in MCCSC

FIRST GRADE
Each quarter, students will learn new skills and build upon skills from earlier in the year. Below are some areas students will focus on each quarter.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Blend sounds to make words
- Change sounds in single-syllable words
- Read sight words
- Use details to tell the plot, character, and setting of a story
- Develop topics for stories and poems
- Write capital and lowercase letters correctly
- Read with expression
- Use details to retell a story
- Retell the main idea and details of nonfiction text
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar

### MATH

- Count to 120
- Add and subtract within 20
- Solve real-world problems using objects, drawings, and equations
- Compare numbers using >, <, =
- Count by 1s, 5s, and 10s from any number up to 120
- Use groups of 10s and 1s in multiple ways
- Create real-world addition and subtraction problems
- Add and subtract within 20 using multiple strategies
- Add within 100 using models, drawings, and strategies
- Identify, sort, and describe objects by features
- Add within 100 and explain orally
- Read, write, and relate time using a clock
- Collect and interpret data on a chart or graph
**SCIENCE**
Students learn about science through hands-on exploration. In first grade, they learn about plants and animals, pebbles, sand, and silt, and light and sound.

**MUSIC**
In music, students learn to keep a steady beat, hold classroom instruments correctly and play with proper technique, and read, perform, and write simple rhythm and pitch patterns using notation. They also experience music from various historical eras and discuss examples of its importance.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
In PE, students demonstrate motor skills and movement patterns and concepts, exhibit respectful and responsible personal and social behavior, and learn the value of physical activity. They also achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
First graders learn about rights and responsibilities, geography, and the past and present during social studies instruction.

**ART**
In art class, students have the opportunity to explore various art materials, use observation and investigation to prepare for making a work of art, and develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. They also use art vocabulary to describe artwork.

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**
MCCSC uses the Second Step curriculum with elementary school students. Second Step lessons for Grade 1 begin with skills for learning and listening, which set the stage for future academic success and later lessons in identifying feelings, managing strong emotions, solving problems, and getting along with others.
FIRST GRADE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Thrive on encouragement; may be all they need to get through a difficult situation
- Ready to try taking on individual and group responsibility
- Competitive; do better when adults take the competitive edge out of learning
- Enthusiastic; anxious to do well
- Can be “poor sports” or dishonest; invent rules to enable themselves to win; like to be first
- Large capacity for enjoyment; like surprises and treats
- Can be bossy, teasing, or critical of others
- Easily upset when hurt; can be sensitive to criticism from others
- Care a great deal about friends; may have a best friend

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Build a routine that allows for homework and studying time and enough sleep to help your child establish a healthy balance.
- Incorporate daily reading time at home and allow your child to share about it.
- Find examples of words with two or more different meanings (such as run, saw, and blue). Talk about how context helps us understand which meaning of the word is being used. Encourage your child to find examples of words with multiple meanings when he/she reads.
- Inquire about any technology, websites, and apps that can support learning away from the classroom and reinforce the concepts being taught at school.
- Play math games with your child. For example, “I’m thinking of a number. When I add five to it, I get 11. What is the number?”
- Encourage your child to read and write numbers in different ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make the number 15? 15 can be 10+5, 7+8, 20-5, or 5+5+5.
- Have your child create story problems to represent addition, subtraction, and comparisons. For example, “I have seven pennies. My brother has five pennies. How many pennies does he need to have the same number as I have? He needs two more pennies.”