



**ASANTE  
PREPARATORY  
ACADEMY**

**FIRST GRADE  
GUIDE**



## OVERVIEW

Hello First Grade Families-

This academic success guide has been created to give you an overview of the important concepts your child should be mastering by the end of the year during their time here at Asante Preparatory. It will also give you some ideas of things you can do at home to help support your child. In addition, the guide will give you an overview of the special area classes your child will participate in during their year.

At Asante, we track student progress by standard. We look for opportunities to deepen their learning in some areas and also accelerate them when appropriate. While it may seem a far time from now, our goal is all middle school students will leave Asante with at least one high school credit.

We know how important our partnership will be in helping your child be as successful as possible, so please don't ever hesitate to reach out with ideas or questions!

We hope this is the most amazing year for your child!

The First Grade Team

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In 1st grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. Your child will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and will be able to sound out more complex words. Such foundational skills are necessary and important components of developing proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend a wide range of materials. Students will learn to think about what they read and talk about the main ideas of simple stories. As they write and speak, 1st graders will learn to use language appropriately; this includes using complete sentences and spelling words with increasing accuracy.

## What Your Child Is Learning

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- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Describing characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
- Getting facts and information from different texts
- Writing about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing an opening and closing
- Participating in shared research and writing projects (e.g., exploring a number of “how-to” books and using them to write a sequence of instructions)
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion
- Describing people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and with complete sentences
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g., deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball)
- Learning to think about finer distinctions in the meanings of near-synonyms (e.g., marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking)

# MATHEMATICS

In 1st grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to improve speed and accuracy when adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g.,  $17 - 8$ ). Another important goal in 1st grade is adding with a sum of 100 or less; this will rely on understanding what the digits mean in a number such as 63 (namely, 63 is six tens and three ones). Working with multi-digit addition this year will set the stage for 2nd grade, when your child will be working with three-digit numbers and adding and subtracting with larger numbers.

## What Your Child Is Learning

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- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less, for example by using strategies based around the number 10 (e.g., to solve  $13 - 4$ , one can start with 13, subtract 3 to reach 10, and then subtract 1 more to reach 9)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g.,  $2 + 5$ ,  $7 - 5$ )
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g.,  $38 + 5$ ,  $29 + 20$ ,  $64 + 27$ ,  $80 - 50$ )
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Through the study of civics, geography, economics, and history, students will understand how a community functions and how each member contributes to the community for the common good. Students will study their local community and learn about characteristics that define urban, suburban, and rural communities. Democratic principles and participation in government are introduced. Community resources, environment, change over time, and cause/effect are examined

Key areas of focus include:

- Understanding perspectives of others
  - Effects of human movement
  - School and community functions of government
  - Cooperation and compromise
  - Earning, spending, and saving money
  - American symbols and traditions
  - Using geographic models
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## **SCIENCE**

By the end of first grade, students make observations to understand the connections between earth materials and the ability for Earth to sustain a variety of organisms. Students learn how objects can impact other objects from a distance or by contact with each other, how organisms interact with earth materials for survival, and how life systems have cycles. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices:

- ask questions and define problems
- develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations
- analyze and interpret data
- use mathematics and computational thinking
- construct explanations and design solutions
- use evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information.

## SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

At Asante Preparatory Academy, students in first grade have the opportunity to participate in special area classes in one week cycles. These courses will help them explore interests in the arts, robotics and STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math), and health and fitness. During the four week rotations, each child will attend classes in:

- Physical Education
  - Art
  - General Music
  - iExplore
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## WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Literacy Ideas:
  - Encourage your child to read to you books such as Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik. Help him or her sound out difficult words.
  - Act out stories together from books, television, or your child's imagination.
  - Pick a "word of the day" each day starting with a different letter. Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter.
  - Visit the library with your child every week. Have your child sign up for a library card.
- Mathematics Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 1st grade examples might include:
  - If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left.
  - While putting away toys into bins, count the number of toys in two bins and ask your child how many more are in one bin compared to the other.
  - Play the "I'm thinking of a number" game. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?".
  - Visit websites, like [www.prodigygame.com](http://www.prodigygame.com) or [getepic.com](http://getepic.com)

**THANK YOU  
FOR SHARING  
YOUR CHILD  
WITH US!**



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