

# Academic Program

## Language Arts

Language Arts is composed of several inter-related areas: reading, writing, spelling, listening, and speaking. At the elementary level, the student is encouraged to learn to communicate clearly through development in these five areas.

### **Reading**

- Demonstrate mastery of the long/short vowels and consonants sounds
- Use letter-sound knowledge and age appropriate sight words to read
- Use word families to read words in sentences
- Use phonemic awareness knowledge to identify and recognize rhyme, letter/sound relationships & patterns in words orally
- Use a variety of reading strategies to self-monitor & self-correct miscues that interfere with meaning
- Use text clues & prior knowledge to make & justify predictions
- Identify character, setting, and problem/solution to retell a story in their own words with correct sequence
- Make connections between life experiences and other books
- Use picture clues to read and understand a story
- Read a variety of genre
- Read and apply information presented in tables, charts, graphs and diagrams
- Read grade-level appropriate material with fluency and accuracy

### **Reading Continued:**

- Use new words (vocabulary) in speaking, reading, and writing
- Show an interest in new words
- Use antonyms and synonyms in speaking and writing

### **Writing**

- Write letters neatly and correctly
- Learn to write from left to right
- Generate and organize ideas using graphic organizers
- Compose a piece of writing with a beginning, middle and end
- Support main point/focus with specific facts, details and/or description
- Use the writing process to create expository and narrative works
- Demonstrate proper use of rules of capitalization, punctuation and spelling in writing samples

### **Mathematics**

*Houghton Mifflin Math* provides a comprehensive program that provides the essential building blocks in all five strands of mathematics: Number sense, Measurement, Algebra, Geometry, Probability and Data.

- Recognize, count, write, order and compare numbers and sets through 100
- Model addition/subtraction concepts & use addition/subtraction properties to solve problems & find sums/differences through 12
- Read, make and use graphs to compare information
- Apply skills and strategies to solve problems
- Use related facts to write and solve addition & subtraction fact families

- Identify, describe, classify, compare & sort plane & solid shapes
- Use position words & grids to describe & locate objects
- Identify transformations of shapes and symmetry in shapes
- Identify, create, and extend patterns
- Identify and name  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a region or set
- Count and regroup 10s and 1s
- Identify place value through 99
- Identify ordinal numbers first through tenth
- Orally count by 2s to 20
- Orally count by 5s and 10s to 100
- Identify odd and even numbers
- Tell time to the hour and half hour using analog and digital clocks
- Use a calendar
- Identify and know value of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters
- Identify the value of mixed coin groups
- Use addition to add two and three addends to 12

### **Science/Health**

- Identify and describe parts and functions and the basic needs of living things
- Develop an awareness of patterns in weather and seasonal changes
- Recognize diverse features of the Earth's land, water, and atmosphere
- Demonstrate ways to reduce, reuse, recycle materials
- Experience force such as push, pull, gravity and magnetism
- Identify and demonstrate responsible healthy behaviors (nutrition, exercise, food, sleep, hygiene)

## General Information

### Social Studies

- Demonstrate the characteristics of honesty, respect, fairness, caring, responsibility, trustworthiness and citizenship
- Understand fire, bus, school, home and personal safety
- Identify diverse characteristics of individuals, families and communities

### Physical Education

Students learn, develop, and apply skills needed for participation in personal fitness activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Units include:

- Fundamental gross motor skills
- Movement and spatial awareness
- Health-related fitness
- Cooperative skills

### Visual Arts

The purpose of the visual arts curriculum is to have students grow creatively, intellectually, and aesthetically. Students will learn the language of the arts, develop an understanding of how works of art are produced and learn about the role of the arts in past and present civilizations. Students will:

- Develop fine motor skills.
- Follow step by step instructions.
- Create with color mixing.
- Explore the elements of visual arts.

### Music

The general music program will address the language of music. Students will explore the sensory elements, organizational principles, and expressive qualities of music. Students will also learn about production and performance of music and the role of music in civilization.

### **Technology**

The goal of technology education in District 289 is to provide students with the opportunity for technological literacy starting with the elementary curriculum. Our emphasis with students is the application of technology across all grade levels and curricular areas.

### **Reporting to Parents**

Classroom progress is reported through a variety of methods which include: quarterly report cards, AIMSWeb progress reports, annual conferences, and informational parent-teacher communications.

### **Testing**

The District achievement testing program assesses the strengths/needs of our instructional programs and measures achievement of individual students. Testing includes standardized tests, state tests, district assessments, and classroom evaluations.

### **Homework**

Homework at the elementary level begins in an informal fashion but becomes more formal and requires more time and effort as the child progresses through each grade.

# FIRST GRADE

# Curriculum Overview



## Blackstone School

**Mendota Community Consolidated  
School District 289**  
**1806 Guiles Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342**  
**Phone: 815-539-7631**  
**web: [www.mendota289.org](http://www.mendota289.org)**

**Stacy Kelly, Principal**  
**1309 Jefferson St**  
**Mendota, IL 61342**  
**Phone: 815-539-6888**