

Dear Parents of First Grade Students:

We are excited to send this letter to our incoming first grade families for the 2017-2018 school year. As you enjoy your summer, we want to share with you what your students are expected to know when entering first grade. The following is a list of social skills, reading and math skills that your student will be expected to know. Also, you will find a reading list that the Clayton County Public Schools has provided. We are asking that your student read at least 10 of the suggested books on the list. Please have your student prepare an index card for each book by writing the title and draw a picture and/or write a sentence about the book. This will serve as your child's first homework grade. They are due the first day of school.

First grade readiness checklist

Social skills

- Shows confidence in self and demonstrates a sense of self-worth
- Follows rules and routines at home and in kindergarten
- Uses materials purposefully and respectfully
- Comfortably adapts to changes
- Shows eagerness and curiosity as a learner
- Sustains attention to a single task over a period of time
- Works, plays and shares with others
- Interacts easily with familiar adults
- Participates in group activities
- Respects the feelings and rights of others
- Uses words to resolve conflicts
- Seeks adult help when needed

Reading & comprehension

- Shows independent interest in reading-related activities
- Listens with interest to stories read aloud
- Retells a simple story
- Recognizes the association between spoken and written words
- Recognizes all the letters of the alphabet in order
- Distinguishes between and prints capital and lowercase letters
- Associates letters and sounds
- Distinguishes likenesses and differences of letter sounds in spoken words
- Recognizes rhymes and rhyming patterns
- Makes predictions about a story or passage based on the title and/or pictures
- Identifies words and constructs meaning from picture clues in text
- Identifies basic sight words
- Distinguishes fact from fiction
- Begins to understand basic characteristics of fables, stories and legends
- Identifies story elements of setting, plot, character and conflict (where, when, what, who and why)
- Uses personal perspective in responding to stories, such as relating to characters or situations
- Begins to understand simple punctuation marks (period, question mark, etc.)
- Locates the title, author name, illustrator name and table of contents
- Sorts common words into categories (e.g., food, colors, shapes)

Writing

- Reads and writes own name
- Tells a story using pictures
- Uses letters or shapes to depict words or ideas
- Writes familiar words
- Copies or writes words to convey messages

- Participates in group dictated stories
- Builds simple words and sentences
- Demonstrates left-to-right progression, and top-to-bottom progression
- Handles writing tools correctly

Language & listening skills

- Understands and follows simple directions
- Listens to others for short periods of time without interrupting
- Recites nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs
- Participates in discussions and conversations
- Asks questions
- Speaks clearly to convey messages and requests
- Distinguishes between asking and telling
- Distinguishes between formal and informal language (with peers, at home vs. at school)
- Uses complete sentences
- Composes oral stories
- Retells a simple story with basic elements of beginning, middle and end

Numbers, operations & problem solving skills

- Names numerals 0 through 30
- Writes numerals 0 through 20
- Uses counting skills to add to 10
- Classifies and compares objects
- Recognizes, duplicates and extends patterns and relationships of objects, symbols and shapes
- Collects data and makes records using lists or graphical representations
- Shows interest in solving mathematical problems
- Solves problems by guessing and checking using manipulatives or fingers

Geometry & measurement

- Becomes familiar with common instruments for measuring time and temperature (e.g., rulers, thermometers)
- Estimates and measures real quantities using non-standard units (blocks or paperclips)
- Understands and uses comparative words (long and short, heavy and light, etc.)
- Identifies, labels and creates a variety of shapes

Math in action: Telling time, counting money

- Shows an understanding of the calendar and time
- Knows the days of the week and months of the year
- Knows the value of a penny, nickel, dime and quarter

We are looking forward to a great school year!!!!

Ms. Battle, Dr. Diggs, Ms. Dotson, Ms. Floyd, Ms. Haliburton, and Ms. Walker