On Common Ground

First Grade, Trimester 1

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Missouri Learning Standards during the first trimester of first grade in reading, writing, and mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child’s learning at home.

**Reading**

**At school, students will:**
- Describe characters, setting, and major events in a story using text and illustrations.
- Ask and answer questions about key details and identify the main idea in a text.
- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information.
- Use illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- Read regularly spelled one-syllable words (e.g., flat, ship, or rope).

**At home, you can:**
- Listen to your child read decodable text and give appropriate feedback.
- Read books together and discuss characters, setting, and events in the story.
- Discuss the details your child sees in a book’s illustrations.
- Help your child sound out words when reading together.
- Ask your child questions about a text when reading together.

**Writing**

**At school, students will:**
- Write narratives in which they recount two or more sequenced events.
- Use temporal words such as “first,” “next,” and “then” to signal order of events.
- Print all uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Capitalize dates and names of people.
- Use proper end punctuation for sentences.
- With guidance & support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details.
- Spell several high frequency words correctly.
- Spell untaught words phonetically, connecting sounds to letters.

**At home, you can:**
- Use books and Internet sources to gather information; have your child write about what he/she learned.
- Help your child correctly write all of the uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Explain why it is important to capitalize names and dates when writing.
- Encourage your child to use letter sounds to figure out how to spell words.

**Mathematics**

**At school, students will:**
- Add and subtract up to 20, using objects, drawings, and equations.
- Understand the meaning of the equal (=) sign.
- Determine the unknown whole number in an addition or subtraction equation relating three whole numbers (e.g., 3 + ___ + 7 = 14).
- Relate counting to addition and subtracting (e.g., counting by 2s to add 2).
- Tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.

**At home, you can:**
- Practice adding and subtracting within 20.
- Discuss what the equal (=) sign means.
- Practice time to hour and ½ hour.
- Put your child in charge of keeping a schedule.
- Count by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s.

**WHAT ARE THE MISSOURI LEARNING STANDARDS?**

- The Missouri Learning Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English language arts and mathematics that districts may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.
- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.