

## **First Grade Language Arts**

### **Literature**

Using the Houghton Mifflin Invitations to Literacy program reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are developed and practiced throughout the day through a balanced literacy approach. Recognizing that children do not all learn in the same way, the Academy provides strategies for differentiated approaches for reading and writing.

Emergent reading elements, phonics, reading fluency, comprehension, literary elements, and inquiry/research are all aspects of the curriculum. Students are introduced to the F.A.S.T. reading system that offers differentiated instruction to develop fluent readers at all levels. Students are allowed opportunities to self-select books and read individually. They are given opportunities to both read aloud as well as read together as a whole group.

### **Speech/Communication**

Students will give spontaneous, informal presentations as well as prepared presentations.

Students recite songs, poems, jokes, and stories.

Students will participate in conversation, take turns in discussion, and read aloud to a group.

Students will listen to a presentation in order to note main idea and/or details.

### **The Writing Process**

Our writing workshop begins in the first grade with a focus on teaching through a variety of writing projects. Teachers address the curriculum areas of sentence structure, creative writing, and spelling as well as allow students the learning experience of public speaking within the classroom. Teachers have been trained in the 6+1 Traits of Writing that offers a consistent language to the writing process which will benefit and strengthen students' writing skills throughout their years at GPA.

Students will engage in learning and using the 6+1 Writing Traits: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

### **Viewing and Visually Representing**

Students will bring personal experience to interpretation of illustrations. They will understand environmental print as well as basic graphs, charts, and maps.

### **Digital Storytelling**

Digital Storytelling takes the ancient art of oral storytelling and engages a palette of technical tools to weave personal tales using images, graphics, music and sound mixed together with the author's own story voice. Digital storytelling is an emerging art form of personal, heartfelt expression that enables individuals and communities to reclaim their personal cultures while exploring their artistic creativity.

DigiTales 2009

Digital storytelling enhances the language arts program and is linked to reading improvement by increasing children's comprehension & vocabulary development.

*Teachers will select from learning expectations at lower or higher levels to differentiate for individual needs.*