

Holiday Units:

These units engage children as active learners about the traditions of the Jewish people. This is done through a multisensory perspective, as well as through connection to texts.

Shabbat Shalom Unit:

First grade students will:

- discuss and experience the preparations for Shabbat and welcoming of Shabbat.
- actively learn about the Mitzvot of Shabbat.

discuss saying farewell to Shabbat with Havdalah.

- learn blessings over the candles, the challah and the Kiddush for Shabbat.

Weekly Torah Portion (*Parashat Hashavua*) Unit: This unit presents a first cycle for the study of the weekly *Torah* portion according to the Jewish calendar.

First grade students will:

- focus on main ideas in the portion and the values these ideas represent.
- link the words of the *Torah* to their lives today.
- teaches wisdom with suggestions for how to live meaningful lives.

The Holiday Unit (*Chag Sameach*): This unit follows the cycle of the year, introducing a deeper understanding of the holidays in a developmentally appropriate way.



The Silver Academy

Central PA's Jewish Day School

Parent Curriculum Guide to FIRST GRADE

General Studies

Language Arts

The first graders at The Silver Academy are presented with a comprehensive English and Language Arts program designed to form the building blocks of lifelong success in communication, writing, reading, and learning. Students learn through individual and small-group instruction, allowing them to advance at their own pace, comfort, and style.

First Grade Students Will:

- Engage in individual and group reading workshops and think critically about the texts with which they interact.
- Acquire and use parts of speech of the English language.
- Be exposed to and analyze texts and writing of different styles, cultures, and subject matter.
- Engage in writing workshop that builds the basic foundation of process writing.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Read alouds that allow the teacher to model reading strategies.
- Shared reading opportunities that allow students to practice reading strategies.
- Small Moments - Writing with focus, detail, and dialogue (narrative writing).
- Writing reviews (opinion/persuasive writing).

- Writing non-fiction chapter book (informational writing).
- Narrative writing from Scenes to Scenes.

What Can Parents Do?

- Demonstrate the joys and value of reading in your home with/to your child.
- Frequently use writing as a communication tool and creative outlet.
- Read with your child every night.
- Encourage your child as they progress with their reading and writing skills.

Math

First grade students will learn problem solving and mathematical reasoning to connect Mathematics to Science, Language Arts, and everyday life. Students will work with concrete objects to perfect and enhance proficiency, using computation, addition, and subtraction.

First Grade Math Students Will:

- Learn number sense
- Learn addition and subtraction strategies to 12.
- Learn geometric patterns, solid and plane figures, fractions, measurements (weight and capacity), count money, time, and calendar
- Engage with the world around them through numbers and mathematic functions.
- Apply skills acquired through hands-on activities to problem solve and think critically
- Gain basis for lifelong application of numbers and mathematic theory.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Hands on activities using manipulatives to learn new concepts.
- Engaging math games.
- Digital resources using the classroom smartboard.

a foreign language for our students: it is learning the language of their heritage.

The TaL AM educational philosophy asserts that the best learning environment for children is experiential. In addition to studying from textbooks, students use music, games, and visual aids to learn the Hebrew language and to develop a keen understanding of Jewish concepts and values. Differentiated learning is built into the curriculum.

First grade includes the following subject units:

Ariot – The Skills Unit:

First grade students will:

- practice letter and vowel recognition in words and sentences.
- develop phonetic reading skills.
- develop writing and verbal skills.
- develop reading comprehension through reading of stories, games, and exercises.
- reinforce their learning with online exercises including songs and games.

Shalom Unit: This unit introduces students every day to Hebrew in the classroom, at home, and outdoors.

First grade students will:

- learn about the characters of a “virtual” classroom, with sensitivity to learning differences and the importance of each child’s participation.
- think about the objects in the classroom and discuss how we learn.
- expand vocabulary applicable to the home environment including morning and evening routines, the body, clothing and nutrition, and the respective prayers and blessing.
- learn about the outdoor environment including key words, with references to the wonders of the creation and the seasons of the year.
- record their experiences in an album through drawing and Hebrew descriptors.

Shabbat Shalom, Weekly Torah Portion (Parashat Hashavua), and

Dedicate time to listening to a variety of music in the home.

Sing songs with your child.

Art

The Silver Academy's Art Program encourages students to use their minds and creativity to interpret the world around them. Students are given the freedom to create using their own style, techniques, and thoughts.

First Grade Art Students Will:

- Encounter different styles of art.
- Be encouraged to create their own pieces.
- Learn to appreciate art of the world.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Papier Mache
- Art History

What Can Parents Do?

- Find art projects online to create with your student
- Visit Art Galleries/Museums
- Display projects created in class at home

Feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions you may have.

Hebrew & Judaic Studies

In first grade, students begin using TaL AM (Technological Approach to Language and Heritage), a renowned curriculum based on the principles of communicative-heritage language acquisition. This method reflects the idea that learning Hebrew is more than learning

What Can Parents Do?

- Practice addition and subtraction with your student on a regular basis.
- Engage your child with real-world applications of mathematical functions learned in class.
- Give your student responsibilities that involve application of skills covered in school.

Social Studies

Students in First Grade Social Studies are introduced to the tenets of organized society, including community, laws, and rules. Students engage with relevant history, celebrating important figures, eras, and events in an objective context using critical thinking skills.

First Grade Social Studies Students Will:

- Be introduced to important figures, with particular attention to historical characters focused on improving society and community.
- Be exposed to the concept of civil rights, economics, and where we live in relation to the world and the map.
- Experience the value of working with others to accomplish goals.
- Demonstrate the concept and need for laws and regulations in society.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Weekly scholastic news articles covering various topics.
- Reading fiction and nonfiction books to gain a better understanding of social studies concepts.
- Researching topics to write about.

What Can Parents Do?

- Create "House Rules" with input from all the children in your home.
- Take regular trips to museums and historic sites.
- Build something as a group or family working in a team.

Science

The Silver Academy's science program provides students with the stepping stones to understanding the beauty and order of the world around them. Students use hands-on learning to gain knowledge of scientific methods, theories, and reason, and learn the importance of respecting and taking care of the earth.

First Grade Science Students Will:

- Explore the senses that create perception of the world around them.
- Describe scientific properties of matter.
- Analyze and appreciate varied forms of plant and animal life.
- Describe the properties of solids and liquids.
- Learn about weather and the changes that occur and demonstrate that knowledge.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Field investigations.
- Written research reports and support for the results.
- Summarizing laboratory experiences and experiments.

What Can Parents Do?

Set an example of conservation (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Read, watch, and discuss news and stories in science.

Take your child out to enjoy nature.

Physical Education

Students begin the process of developing fitness skills and physical fitness activities that can be built upon and expanded in future grades

First Grade Students Will:

- Participate in team and individual sports.
- Learn to follow rules and procedures of games and activities.
- Gain the basis for a healthy lifestyle.

Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Jogging, musical exercises, sit-ups and pull-ups, coordination and balance work, and non-sports games and activities.
- Team building exercises.
- Floor hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, volleyball, and lacrosse activities that are age appropriate.

What Can Parents Do?

Encourage activity and healthy eating habits.

Have scheduled outdoor/exercise time at home.

Create new games with your student.

Music

1st grade music students learn through a combination of singing, moving, and listening. Students will learn through a variety of tools, including rhythm instruments, bean bags, puppets, and more. Students will learn music appreciation through a variety of composers, from Bach to Bernstein and beyond.

First grade music students will:

- Identify musical instruments, voices, direction, and symbols.
- Practice rhythm as individuals and team members.
- Learn melody, form, timbre, texture, and harmony as they relate to music and natural sounds.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

Singing songs individually and collaboratively.

Listening to music from around the globe.

Participating as a team in music creation and appreciation.

What Can Parents Do:

Encourage your student's interest in becoming proficient in music/individual instruments.