

First Grade

Overview:

Manzanita's first grade blends the Forest Kindergarten model with time dedicated to the joy of reading, writing, and building strong number sense. In literacy, students experience writing and reading workshops, learn how to choose "just right books," write small moment stories, and investigate letters, sounds, and word patterns. Numeracy instruction focuses on building number sense through the use of hands-on manipulatives. Students investigate counting, addition, subtraction, number stories, place value, and geometry.

Daily Schedule

8:00 - 8:30 - Arrival time and gathering on Pond Stage.

8:30 - 9:00 - Morning meeting

- Calendar
- Weather
- Songs and Verses
- Letter of the week
- Numeracy Concept of the week

9:00 - 10:00 - Literacy/Numeracy (alternates each day)

10:00 - Snack

10:30 - 12:00 - Nature Connection

- Group Games
- Guided Wanders
- Oral Storytelling
- Songs and Movement

12:00 - 12:30 - Lunch

12:30 - 1:00 - Recess

1:00 - 2:00 - Nature Connection with a focus on crafts.

2:00 - 2:20 - Clean up and Closing Circle.

2:20 - 2:30 - Pick up

**Schedule is subject to change depending on weather, hikes and specialist days.*

Nature Connection

The first-grade class curriculum is rich in direct experience with nature and nurtures a sense of community and belonging among children, families and the land. Our students learn to identify local flora and fauna, recognize patterns in nature, build physical prowess, agility, and confidence, and develop a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Our classes are busy foraging, recognizing plants that can heal or harm us, tracking and observing animals, observing changes on the land, painting, drawing, crafting, and playing in nature's playground. Using wild harvested materials in play and work helps students experience the concept of interdependence through all of the senses. By the end of the year, students will have completed two field guides, one on each nature name and the other on the local flora and fauna studied together.

Reading/Literacy

In the first semester students focus on reading comprehension, strategies for decoding words, and fluency. Content is explored through stories.

In the second semester, students write several personal narrative stories. They go through the writing process of drafting, revising, editing, and publishing and participate in a writing celebration.

Numeracy

Numeracy instruction focuses on building number sense through the use of hands-on manipulatives. Students investigate counting, addition, subtraction, number stories, place value, and geometry. Topics of study include:

1. Sums and differences to 10.
2. Introduction to place value through addition and subtraction within 20.
3. Ordering and comparing length measurements as numbers
4. Place Value. Comparison. Addition and Subtraction to 40.
5. Identifying, composing and partitioning shapes.
6. Place Value. Comparison. Addition and Subtraction to 100.