



# Grade Level Transition Meetings

Armstrong Elementary

# 1st Grade Teachers

4 sections: class size is approximately 22 students

Dinah Donham

Frances Grigsby

Beth Haney

Mary Carol Hughes

Assistant for in class and pull out support

# 2nd Grade Teachers

4 sections: class size is approximately 22 students

Annabelle Bass

Betsy Bogdovitz

Lindsay Naremore

Claire Oliver

Assistant for in class and pull out support

# 3rd Grade Teachers

5 sections: class size is approximately 22 students

Carrie Brunner

Jayci Cruz (Underwood)

Jolie Draughn

Katie Johnson

Amy Unger

Assistant for in class and pull out support

# 4th Grade Teachers

6 sections: class size is approximately 22 students

Amanda Hollier

Taylor Jeter

Margie Mead

Ashraf Mobh

Gillian Wiley

Lara Young

Assistant for in class and pull out support

# Daily Structure

School begins with the 8:00 bell followed by announcements

School ends at 3:15

	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade
Recess	11:00 - 11:20 12:45 - 1:05	11:20 - 11:40 1:50 - 2:10	11:40 - 12:05 1:30 - 1:50	12:00 - 12:25 2:05 - 2:25
Lunch	11:20 - 11:55	11:40 - 12:15	12:00 - 12:40	12:20 - 1:00
Specials/ Conference	1:05- 2:05	2:10 - 3:10	8:15 - 9:15	9:20 - 10:20

# Homework Expectations

All Armstrong students bring home books from the classroom libraries and our school library. These books should go to and from school daily.

Students should read at least 20 minutes each evening.

There will be other nightly homework that varies from grade to grade, though it will be minimal and related to the classroom's current work.

Communicate with the classroom teacher if homework causes struggles at home

# 1st Grade New Concepts

Literacy: TCRWP phonics is used for tools for reading, and writing. Students study consonants, blends, vowels, and vowel teams as they are guided to look at the whole word. We strive to build readers and writers, and focus on what the student can do and is ready to do. As student become more confident as word builders and word solvers, we will spend more time on comprehension.

Math: addition, subtraction related facts to 20, measurement, naming and describing shapes, graphing and sets of coins and value are some of the items we will work on. Building number sense fluency is important. Word problems and real life application are important in helping first grade mathematicians.

Science and Social Studies: citizenship, historical figures, Famous American project, traditions, economics, life cycles, seasonal changes, matter, energy, force are some concepts we teach into. Much of science and social studies is integrated within reading and writing

# Developmental Milestones in First Graders

- Rapid physical, cognitive, and social changes
- Constantly rushing and wanting to be finished
- Great interest in being finished first
- Friends sometimes rival the importance of parents and teachers
- Children really care about what adults think. Behavior is controlled by reinforcement and punishment.
- Intellectual development experiences a major shift in logical reasoning, understanding cause and effect, beginning to see another's point of view.

# What does a first grade classroom look like?

- Classrooms are busy, noisy places with talking, humming, whistling, cooperative projects and activities all day.
- Teachers use a lot encouragement because it brings excitement!
- First graders are very “industrious” and no job seems to big, but their eyes can be bigger than their skills, and they risk a sense of inadequacy and inferiority as they tackle new projects.
- Teachers are clear about what is expected and what is acceptable do children a great favor.
- We help children gain perspective to ensure self-confidence.

# 2nd Grade New Concepts

**Literacy:** Students continue to utilize the workshop model in reading and writing. Students are introduced to a deeper level of reading that allows them to study characters, character traits and motivations, and story elements/structure. Writers begin to develop their writing in a variety of genres (small moments, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, writing about reading).

**Math:** Place Value to 1,000, Representing data in multiple ways, Addition and Subtraction with regrouping, Introduction to multiplication and division

**Science and Social Studies:** Science and social studies continues to be integrated into reading and writing, as well as having dedicated time to invest in projects, research, and hands-on learning and experiments. 2nd graders participate in an animal research project, a study of the Texas regions, as well as an economics project. Other topics include our community, map skills, government, living vs. nonliving, vertebrates/invertebrates, matter, energy, and forces and motion.

# Developmental Milestones in Second Graders

- Eight year olds become more concerned about getting everything right, and they may need more time to complete tasks.
- They are good listeners and enjoy being read a story. They like working and talking with one other person, but don't always do well on group projects.
- They can be driven by curiosity and a strong internal desire to discover and invent. They are intensely interested in how things work and love to take things apart and put them back together again.

# What does a second grade classroom look like?

- Students may choose to work by themselves for longer periods of time.
- They love the routine and structure of school and appreciate their personal relationship with the teacher.
- Writing can be a favorite activity when children are given extended periods to create their own stories.
- Science and social studies take on new meaning as they show increasing interest in the world around them.
- Ability to do math without manipulatives is increasing; inferring, predicting, and estimating become more accessible.

# 3rd Grade New Concepts

**Literacy:** While third graders are still learning word decoding strategies, applying them in their reading, and learning vocabulary in context, comprehension is a main focus of third grade. This might include synthesizing new information, finding the main idea, discovering the theme of a book, and more. Text complexity increases and readers need to infer and cross-check throughout their book.

Writers move fluidly through the writing process, creating narrative, informational, and argumentative (previously persuasive) pieces. Revising and editing are important parts of the writing process that help create a clear message to an audience. Word Study (previously spelling) is taught and assessed in the context of authentic writing.

**Math:** Third graders continue to build a strong foundation in number sense, place value, addition and subtraction, and use these skills in problem solving. Mathematicians continue to build on multiplication and division work started in second grade- moving from a concrete understanding into a pictorial and abstract understanding. Fractions, Geometry, and Data also continue to build from second grade standards.

STAAR test: reading and math at end of year

# 3rd Grade New Concepts

Science: Some key units of third grade are living systems, earth science, and physical science. The scientific method is practiced in the science lab where students conduct experiments.

Social Studies: Third graders will continue to learn about communities, structures of government, and cultural/ethnic celebrations. Students will also study changes in geography and how people adapt to their environments.

# Developmental Milestones in Third Graders

- 3rd graders are full of energy, imagination, and have little sense of their own limits
- Children can get frustrated when accomplishments do not come easily
- “I’m bored” can mean “This is too hard!” Students need encouragement.
- Awareness of self is increasing, so it is important to point out that we all have strengths and weaknesses.
- Research shows that girls receive more negative feedback than boys, both at home and school; Girls who perform poorly are characterized as being less smart, while boys are characterized as putting out less effort.

# What does a third grade classroom look like?

- Teachers help students cut work into smaller chunks
- Clear expectations for students
- Students experience success so they will continue to be motivated and excited.
- Students need to see examples of drafts and finished work to see range of effort required to make progress toward mastery.
- Students have roles in the classroom, which is helpful for instilling character and becoming a member of the group.

# 4th Grade New Concepts

4th graders read multiple genres, understanding that story elements and text structure are important to comprehension. Text becomes more complex and readers will rely on multiple sources of information to truly understand the text. We will do novel studies and bookclubs to ensure students are talking about their reading and sharing their ideas. Other aspects of balanced literacy, such as interactive read aloud, word study, and interactive writing will support readers and writers as they move up the progression.

Writers move fluidly through the writing process, creating narrative, informational, and argumentative (previously persuasive) pieces. Revising and editing are important parts of the writing process that help create a clear message to an audience. Word Study (previously spelling) is taught and assessed in the context of authentic writing.

Math: Place Value & Adding/Subtracting Whole Numbers (up to hundred billions), Numbers & Operations/Algebraic Reasoning: Multiplication & Division (up to 2 digit by 3 digit multiplication and long division), Fractions (like and unlike denominators and simplest form), Geometry (measuring angles and finding missing measurements), Measurement (converting), Data Analysis & Financial Literacy (Stem and Leaf, Dot Plot, Frequency Tables, and understanding how to run a business)

Science: Organisms and environment, earth and science, matter and energy, force, motion and energy.

Social Studies: Texas History

# Developmental Milestones on Fourth Graders

- Enthusiasm of eight turns in worrying at nine; worrying about world events, parents, friends
- This can turn into deep seriousness about social concerns
- Children may complain of aches and pains or hurt feelings; not usually good risk-takers
- 4th graders tend to work better on their own; begin showing more care in final products
- 4th graders worry about life not being fair

# What does a fourth grade classroom look like?

- Positive reinforcement is necessary to help with this developmental stage.
- Students will get many opportunities to practice, model, and role play to be successful.
- Teachers and students work together to problem-solve social situations.
- Students are encouraged to solve problems, but are consistently reminded to talk to an adult if a problem is not solved.
- Teachers continue to work with small groups and individual conferring to increase student understanding of concepts.

# Literacy Instruction

## Balanced Literacy Framework

Workshop Model

Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Thinking

Minilesson, Independent Practice, Share

Individual Conferences and Small Group Work during Independent Time

Authentic Practice with Feedback

Moving along a Progression of Skills and Strategies

# Math Instruction

Math Framework Committee to revise and publish

Explicit Instruction, Independent Practice, Share

Number Sense, Place Value, Problem Solving, Computation, Mathematical  
Discourse

Workshop and/or Differentiated Stations

Authentic Practice with Real World Applications

# Summer Suggestions

Here are a few suggestions for the summer to continue the love of learning into the next grade. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher if you'd like more specifics.

- Read daily! Read to your child, have your child read alongside you, and listen to your child read. Talk about the book, the author and his/her craft moves, and help your child through tricky words/parts by asking questions like: "Does that look right?" " Does that sound right?" and "Does that make sense?"
- Make reading fun! Read a variety of genres, find a series that is interesting, form a book club, make a fun space in your house to read! You can read on Raz Kids, Epic, or other audiobooks as well.
- Write over the summer! You can write about places you go, things you do, and people you see. You can research and create posters, create fantasy series, or write in other forms such as drama and poetry.
- Write together making grocery lists, packing lists, thank you notes, and more.
- Practice math facts over the summer! Play games, practice flashcards, and play on apps associated with promoting math fluency. Encourage fun games that provide opportunities to think deeply about number sense, such as games from Greg Tang and Marilyn Burns.
- Let your child be a kid! Giving your child chances to play provides a lot of opportunities to develop socially and emotionally. Give structured opportunities as well as unstructured.

# Parent Resources

[HPISD Website](#) with Parent Links

[Scholastic](#) Resources

## **Books:**

-[Mindset](#) by Carol Dweck

-[Grit](#) by Angela Lee Duckworth

-[The Power of Habit](#) by Charles Duggig

-[How to Raise an Adult](#) by Julie Lythcott Haims

-[Teach Your Children Well](#) by Madeline Levine

-[How Children Succeed](#) by Paul Tough

-[NurtureShock](#) by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman

# Contacts

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# Nationally Recognized Reading Lists

Caldecott



Newberry



Bluebonnet



Scholastic

