

First Grade Readiness & Kindergarten Outcomes

Social/Emotional Readiness Skills that Support Success in First Grade: Key elements that contribute to success in First Grade is the ability to identify and regulate emotions and behaviors, connecting with others through communication and cooperative play, resilience to challenges and the ability to resolve conflicts with empathy.

Academic Development: The skills listed under each category are what we find to be essential skills to enter into first grade. It should be noted that each child will progress through the school year at a different pace. It is our goal to assist each child to reach their fullest potential with academic and social development so that they will experience success.

Art, Music & Physical Education: Each student is encouraged through a thoughtfully prepared environment for daily experiences in art, music and gross motor activities.

Science: To inspire curiosity while gaining knowledge of information and concepts presented in science units:

- Environmental Science – respect for the outdoor environment and active stewardship of the earth
- Life Science - study of life and organisms; plants, and animals including human beings.
- Earth Science – study of geography (map-making), geology, and the solar system
- Physical Science – the movement of matter, sound, heat and light
- Human Body – the senses, growing and changing, healthy eating and lifestyle
- History – introduction to time, (clock, days of the week, months, seasons) as well as the history of humankind
- Cultural Geography – study of how others live according to their customs or beliefs.

Sensorial: The student will work with materials that engage the five senses. These materials provide experiences leading to the investigative process and logical thinking. Sensorial experiences lay the foundation for future math concepts.

Math: Montessori math uses beautifully designed materials to give children concrete experiences that allow them to develop increasingly abstract understandings of mathematical, algebraic and geometric concepts.

Uses Montessori materials to:

- Recognize, represent and write quantities and numerals through the thousands place value
- Exchange equivalent quantities (10 units for one ten, etc.)
- Find combinations of the numbers with sums through 10
- Explain teen numbers (16 = 1 ten and 6 units)
- Explain ten numbers (47 = 4 tens and 7 units)
- Skip count by 2 (to 20), 5 (to 50) and 10 (to 100)

- Become familiar with addition, subtraction and multiplication
- Recognize and name geometric shapes
- Sort and grade objects by length, width, weight, etc.
- Collect and organize simple data into charts and graphs
- Recognize, duplicate and create patterns

Language Arts: Language Arts embodies the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Rich language development is integrated throughout the entire classroom curriculum.

Uses Montessori materials to:

- Recognize letters of the alphabet by name (upper and lower case)
- Identify letter sounds
- Distinguish initial, medial and final sounds
- Decoding and Encoding of phonetic words
- Write upper- and lower-case letters properly, general awareness of form, placement on the line and proper spacing of the letters and words
- Basic punctuation
- Write first and last name
- Use letters and phonetically spells words to write about experiences, stories, people, objects or events
- Recognize beginning sight words
- Become familiar with parts of a book (title, author, illustrator)
- Use pictures and context to make predictions and retell a story
- Is able to listen to a story and retell content
- Demonstrates proficient speaking and listening skills

Foreign Language: HMS students begin a more formal Spanish Language class. The Spanish program at HMS utilizes traditional Montessori materials and methods. The class is conducted primarily in Spanish, with the only English being provided a word at a time for understanding instructions or expectations. With this model, children are absorbing many questions and becoming familiar with hundreds of new vocabulary words. Children actively participate through manipulation of materials, including models and cards. Many common Montessori lessons include Montessori sensorial, mathematics, and geography concepts. We utilize multi-age grouping and frequently review past material to further cement nomenclature.