

Carlisle Public Schools
FIRST-GRADE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Mission and Vision of the Carlisle Public Schools

Carlisle Public Schools cultivate balanced learners who can stand confidently with one foot in the field and the other in the future.

We create a nurturing and individualized experience for our students and highly value personal relationships. We prioritize social-emotional and physical health. We include a project-based approach to help students develop their knowledge, skills, and interests. We provide multiple ways for students to demonstrate understanding and mastery, de-emphasizing state standardized assessments. Students engage in the classroom and in the community, with educators, local experts, and Carlisle's natural resources to understand how their studies can be applied to civic life to help solve local and global problems. We break down barriers between traditional subjects and create opportunities for students to develop their understanding of the world and extend their perspective and thinking beyond our town borders.

A CPS GRADUATE IS:

- A resilient and adaptable **lifelong learner** who is empowered to pursue their interests.
- A self-aware and **reflective individual** who takes responsibility for their actions, outcomes and learning.
- A caring, kind and engaged **global citizen** who works to forward identified goals.*
- A creative and competent **problem solver**, appreciative of diverse thinking.
- An **independent thinker**, willing to question the status quo and weigh the evidence.
- An **effective communicator & collaborator** who can work with diverse teams, listen and articulate thoughts and ideas persuasively.

*Current goals are aligned with UN Sustainable Development goals.

Core Values:

Academic Excellence

Creativity

Respect

Responsibility

A fuller expression of these values would include . . .

We always look beyond what we now know.

We constantly work to know more.

We are respectful toward all in our community.

We use what we know to help others.

We take responsibility for ourselves and for others.

Goals of Carlisle Public Schools

Goal 1: *Provide A Rich Curriculum In Order To Maximize Student Learning*

The District will assess the curriculum through review cycles and will foster vertical and horizontal articulation and implementation in curriculum, assessment, and instructional practices. The District will continue to work toward aligning the Carlisle and Concord curricula. Our staff development plan, grounded in a professional learning community based on best practices, will lead to ongoing student assessment and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all Carlisle students and prepare them for high school and for a global community.

1. Continue the process of curriculum review, alignment, and improvement
2. Support the implementation of our selected anti-bullying curriculum Olweus, and identify and implement a more formal social-emotional curriculum.
3. Continue to enhance the instructional practices of professionals to meet the needs of all learners.
4. Investigate and identify opportunities for our students to develop their ‘global perspective.’

Goal 2: *Build a Community of Respect in a Safe and Healthy Learning Environment*

The district will promote and maintain an inclusive, safe, and respectful environment that fosters leadership and healthy living. The administration, staff, and students will engage in honest and open dialogues to further encourage the development of a culture of trust and respect.

1. Develop a strong and effective district leadership team.
2. Use data to inform our work in identifying and implementing additional strategies to enhance the social and emotional environment of our school.
3. Evaluate best practices for the delivery of social-emotional and academic support services.
4. Continue to work collaboratively with our community partners to enhance and strengthen relationships and communication.

Goal 3: *Integrate Technology*

The district will integrate technology into the curriculum. Staff development opportunities will be provided to encourage the integration of technology into units of study to support student achievement and proficiency.

1. Use data to evaluate how our current instructional integration of technology aligns with the SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition) model and identify necessary supports to encourage movement along the continuum.
2. Develop a 3-year plan for instructional technology support and integration.
3. Create and support further opportunities for technology integration professional development for all faculty and staff.

Goal 4: *Meet Space Needs and Manage the Resources of the Carlisle Public Schools*

The district will work closely with the town to meet the space needs of the staff and students at Carlisle Public Schools. The district will promote efficient management of CPS resources.

1. Develop a fiscally responsible FY18 Budget that continues to provide the resources needed for an excellent education for Carlisle students, while successfully maintaining the town approved 2017-2018 budget.
2. Assess the future impact of projected declining enrollments and design options to address findings.
3. Assess the current and future facility needs of the district, and develop a plan to address those needs.
4. Explore use of social media to communicate with parents and staff.

First-Grade Language Arts Curriculum

Carlisle's Learning Expectations in ELA meet the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Frameworks. The First Grade ELA curriculum provides children with a solid foundation to support their continued success and development in phonics, reading, and writing. Through a balanced literacy approach, the program blends a rich collection of materials, methods and strategies for effective instruction.

Fundations

Fundations systematically and comprehensively instructs students in phonemic awareness and word study (both phonetic and high frequency sight words) and contributes greatly to fluency, vocabulary development, and the application of strategies for understanding text. All of these are necessary for the successful development of reading comprehension. Additionally, Fundations sets the foundation for writing with the direct teaching of handwriting, the study of English orthography for spelling, as well as the basic skills for capitalization and punctuation. (Fundations Teachers Manual, Second Edition, Level 1)

Reading

The First-Grade reading program uses a balanced literacy approach with an equal emphasis placed upon instruction in decoding and comprehension. Reading instruction is conducted in whole and small groups. Children are exposed to a variety of texts through individualized small group reading instruction, opportunities for shared and independent reading practice, and stories read aloud.

First graders are engaged in daily reading experiences as part of our reading program. During first grade reading blocks, children have the opportunity to read “just right” books at their independent reading level. Students are afforded the opportunity to independently select books that are of interest to them from a collection of books at their teacher-selected (based upon assessment data) “just right” reading level. Each First Grade classroom contains a wide variety

of books, at many different reading levels with different genre and topic areas represented at all levels.

During Reading time, at various points during the week, small groups of students with similar reading levels and behaviors meet together for explicit, clear teacher-led guided reading groups. During these groups, teacher select a book for a small group to read. As part of the selection of book choice, the teacher carefully determines the group's current instructional level, and chooses a book that is carefully aligned with the groups needs to promote growth in reading skills.

In addition, students participate in shared reading experiences with peers throughout the week that elicit meaningful conversations around texts.

Writing

As in reading, the first-grade writing program consists of many elements, which incorporate both basic mechanics of writing skills, as well as opportunities for students to learn the craft of writing. In first grade, students have the opportunity to engage in journal writing during the week. In addition, first grade also engages in writing workshop units of study focused on teaching students to write within specific genres (opinion, informational, small moment and poetry) throughout the year.

When writing opinion pieces, students will introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

When writing informational texts students will name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

When writing small moment narratives students will recount two or more appropriately sequenced events or experiences, include some details about what happened or what was experienced, use temporal words to signal order where appropriate, and provide some sense of closure.

When writing poems students will use rhyming words that repeat long or short vowel sounds to create structure.

As part of the first-grade writing program, students learn to use a variety of graphic organizers to organize their thoughts prior to and during writing. Students learn to revise and edit their own work as they take their writing through the steps of the writing process.

Speaking and Listening

Students will participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about a variety of topics. During these conversations, students will follow agreed upon rules for discussion, maintain conversations by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.

Language

During first grade, students continue to build upon conventions learned in Kindergarten. By the end of first grade, students are expected to learn and apply the following conventions:

- Print legibly all upper- and lowercase letters
- Use end punctuation for sentences
- Capitalize the name of months and people
- Use commas in dates and to separate individual words in a series
- Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words (trick words)
- Spell untaught words phonetically drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions

First-Grade Mathematics Curriculum

Carlisle's Learning Expectations in Mathematics meet the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Frameworks. In first grade, the primary math curriculum is the *Everyday Mathematics* program. Throughout Everyday Mathematics, children have multiple opportunities to experience concepts and skills in each of the mathematical strands. Each exposure builds on and extends children's understanding. The FASTT math program is used to help students gain automaticity of their addition facts.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operation and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Extend the counting sequence
- Understand place value
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract

Measurement and Data

- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units
- Tell and write time
- Represent and interpret data
- Work with money

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes

First-Grade Science Curriculum

Carlisle's Learning Expectations in Science meet the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Frameworks. The four strands of science (Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science and Technology/Engineering) are primarily taught through Read- Alouds and Scholastic News Magazines. Students ask questions, make predictions, collect data and communicate observations, and use information from texts or other resources to understand key concepts. Students also participate in an interdisciplinary (library/art) engineering unit.

**Standards included in the writing, language, math and science sections were taken from the DESE website.*

First-Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Carlisle's Learning Expectations in Social Studies meet the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Frameworks and are primarily taught through Read Alouds and Scholastic News Magazines. Students learn about leadership on many levels, the meaning of citizenship, and looking at a range of map types. They explore how the concepts of unity and diversity shape life in the United States, and how people make choices about purchasing goods and services. They study these topics by exploring guiding questions such as "What makes a good community member?" and "How do we contribute to our community?"

First-Grade Special Projects/Events

- All About My Family poster
- Halloween Doll
- Pilgrim Visit at school
- Country Research Project
- Animal Habitat Interdisciplinary Project (Library, Art, Engineering)
- Children Around the World Musical Performance
- Field Trip to the Zoo