

First Grade Curriculum Handbook



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence





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MPS District Vision

Lead with respect, trust and courage. Ensure an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture. Enable all to achieve success.

Welcome to Midland Public Schools

The Midland Public Schools is a school district that works together to provide a challenging, inquiry-based education that encourages all stakeholders to be internationally minded, lifelong learners who positively impact the world.

This handbook provides you with grade level information about the Midland Public Schools' (K-5) curriculum. Our curriculum was developed using the Michigan Academic Standards.

Written progress of achievement will be reported four times per year: November, January, April and June. Conferences are available in the fall and the spring to provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and an explanation of specific classroom learning. Progress reports and conferences are one of many ways through which we communicate your child's growth and learning. They provide information about areas of the curriculum assessed during a given period, including feedback about your child's successes in school, as well as areas for growth and improvement as we continue to reflect on the teaching-learning cycle within Midland Public Schools. Midland Public Schools' elementary assessment policy can be found at: <https://www.midlandps.org/pyp-policies>

The International Baccalaureate (IB) - Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The Midland Public Schools follows the Primary Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate from preschool through grade five. The Primary Years Programme is a framework used with MPS curriculum. This research-based programme allows for the integration of broad areas of knowledge through the development of curriculum which students find relevant, engaging, significant, and challenging. Learning, through inquiry and action, is the focus of the entire elementary school community. Using the Primary Years Programme framework, students are actively involved in their learning through an understanding of their own identity and are culturally aware, with the purpose of becoming responsible local, national and world citizens.

The PYP consists of five essential elements to guide student learning. These five essential elements are:

- **Approaches to Teaching** - which is both disciplinary, represented by traditional subject areas (language, math, science, social studies, arts, PSPE) and transdisciplinary
- **Concepts** - which students explore through structured inquiry in order to develop coherent, in-depth understanding, and which have relevance both within and beyond subject areas
- **Approaches to Learning** - which are the broad capabilities students develop and apply during learning and in life beyond the classroom
- **Attitudes** - which contribute to international-mindedness and the wellbeing of individuals and learning communities, and connect directly to the [IB learner profile](#)
- **Action** - which is an expectation in the PYP that successful inquiry leads to responsible, thoughtful and appropriate action.

Taken from <http://www.ibo.org/en/programmes/primary-years-programme/curriculum/written-curriculum/>

The IB Primary Years Programme focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in school and in the world around them. The programme uses structured, purposeful inquiry to gain more knowledge and a deeper understanding of content. Students study units of inquiry, which are organized by six transdisciplinary themes. They are:

- **Who We Are:** An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.
- **Where We Are in Place and Time:** An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.
- **How We Express Ourselves:** An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.
- **How the World Works:** An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.
- **How We Organize Ourselves:** An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.
- **Sharing the Planet:** An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

From International Baccalaureate document *Making the PYP Happen: A Curriculum Framework for the International Primary Education*, 2009

More information about the Primary Years Programme can be found at:

<http://www.ibo.org/en/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. – IB learner profile statement

The learner profile is the heart of the PYP, and it defines a set of attributes for students to show they are developing lifelong learning and inquiry skills, and that they are aware of and sensitive to the experiences of others. The attributes described in the IB learner profile are appropriate to, and achievable by, all elementary students.

IB learners strive to be:

- **Inquirers:** They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.
- **Knowledgeable:** They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

- **Thinkers:** They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.
- **Communicators:** They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.
- **Principled:** They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.
- **Open-minded:** They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.
- **Caring:** They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.
- **Risk-takers:** They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.
- **Balanced:** They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.
- **Reflective:** They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

From International Baccalaureate document *Making the PYP Happen: A Curriculum Framework for the International Primary Education*, 2009

Progress Report

Approaches to Learning:

Approaches to Learning are a set of strategies and skills that promote inquiry and learning across all subject areas. Development of these skills supports life-long learning and assists students in learning and succeeding inside and outside of the school setting.

Indicators for Approaches to Learning

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Extending (EXT) | Exceeds expectations |
| Achieving (ACH) | Consistently and independently meets expectations |
| Developing (DEV) | Progressing toward expectations with support |
| Limited Development (LIM) | Does not yet exhibit the expected behaviors |

Thinking Skills:

- **Critical-thinking skills** (analyzing and evaluating issues and ideas)
- **Creative-thinking skills** (generating novel ideas and considering new perspectives)
- **Transfer skills** (using skills and knowledge in multiple contexts)
- **Reflection/metacognitive skills** ((re)considering the process of learning)

Communication Skills:

- **Exchanging-information skills** (listening, interpreting, speaking)
- **Literacy skills** (reading, writing, and using language to gather and communicate information)
- **ICT skills** (using technology to gather, investigate and communicate information)

Self-Management Skills:

- **Organization** (managing time and tasks effectively)
- **States of mind** (mindfulness, perseverance, emotional management, self-motivation, resilience)

Social Skills:

- **Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration skills** (using self-control, managing setbacks, supporting peers)
- **Developing social-emotional intelligence**

Research Skills:

- **Information-literacy skills** (formulating and planning, data gathering and recording, synthesizing, and interpreting, evaluating, and communicating)
- **Media-literacy skills** (interacting with media to use and create ideas and information)
- **Ethical use of media/information** (understanding and applying social and ethical technology)

Academic Indicators for the Progress Report:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Extending (EXT) | Exceeds expectations |
| Achieving (ACH) | Consistently and independently meets expectations |
| Developing (DEV) | Progressing toward expectations with support |
| Limited Development (LIM) | Learner is showing little or no progress |
| In Progress (IP) | Currently being taught |
| Not Assessed (NA) | Not assessed during this marking period |

Literacy

Reading, writing, word study, listening, speaking, viewing, presenting, and literature are included in literacy instruction in all grades. Although each subject may be taught separately at times, they are integrated for learning and mutually reinforced across the curriculum.

Reading

Reading is a process of constructing meaning from written language. Learning to read is an active process involving interaction between the child and print, enabling the reader to build meaning. Through instruction, students learn a variety of strategies to derive meaning from print, to value reading as a learning tool and to view reading as pleasurable.

Expectations Foundational Skills

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the organization and basic features of print
 - understands how print is organized
 - left to right
 - top to bottom
 - spacing

- punctuation
 - spoken words represent text
2. Use a variety of strategies to unlock meaning (sound/symbol, context clues, sight words)
 - Meaning clues
 - Context clues
 - Phonics (sound/symbol)
 - Recognize sight words
 - Apply knowledge of word families and chunks to unfamiliar words
 - Determine the meaning of unknown words using prefixes, suffixes, root word, etc.
 - Use several strategies concurrently
 3. Reads Fluently (smoothness, rate, accuracy and expression)
 - At an appropriate rate
 - With phrasing reflecting attention to language and meaning
 - With expression and accuracy
 - Attend to punctuation so phrases and sentences are heard smoothly

Reading: Literature

1. Constructs meaning from a variety of narrative texts
 - Make sense of the story by asking and answering questions. Retell a story to determine central message, lesson, or moral
 - Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges
 - Describe the overall structure of a story including sequence of events and who is telling the story
 - Use information from illustrations or text to describe characters, setting and plot
 - Describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in stories, poems, etc.
2. Compare and contrast experiences of characters in stories

Reading: Informational Text

1. Construct meaning from a variety of informational text
 - Identify key ideas and details
 - Describe how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text
 - Use text and images to clarify meaning, to make inferences and draw conclusions
 - Use nonfiction text features to located key facts and enhance learning
 - Analyze how two or more texts address similar topics or themes
2. Compare, contrast and make connections between two text on same topic

Read at grade level

By the end of the year, read and comprehend the expected grade level text.

Writing

Writing is a means of thinking and communicating. It also serves as a mode of learning in all curricular areas. It can be a means of self-discovery while exploring what children understand and believe.

Students will work toward:

- Independently choosing a topic
- Using written language to communicate a message
- Organizing ideas in a logical sequence
- Including details to enhance meaning
- Adding individual voice to written work
- Evaluating and revising written work
- Using conventional spelling of known words
- Editing written work
- Writing with an audience in mind

Engages productively in the writing process

Narrative Writing

Students will write broad types of narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured sequences.

1. Narrative Writing

Informative/Explanatory Writing (Shared Research)

Students will write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement.

2. Informative/explanatory writing

Opinion Writing

Students will write arguments to support claims in analysis of topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

3. Opinion Writing

Fine Motor Skills

1. Demonstrates fine motor skills (cutting, drawing, printing)

Mathematics

The emphasis of mathematics instruction in first grade is focused on four critical areas; developing an understanding of addition and subtraction strategies, developing an understanding of whole number relationships and place value, developing an understanding of linear measurement, and reasoning about attributes of geometric shapes.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve word problems involving addition and subtraction
- Understand and apply properties and operations and the relationships between addition and subtraction (fact families)
- Add and subtract within 20 fluently

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Extend the counting sequence. (counts by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's to 20 starting from any number)
- Understand place value and can create, explain, and write numbers to 120 (Can identify

the place a number holds (ex: 45 is 4 - tens and 5 - ones)

- If given a two digit number, can mentally identify ten more or ten less than that given number
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.
- Can order numbers and identify/use $<$, $>$, $=$ symbols correctly

Measurement and Data

- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
- Tell and write time to the hour and half hour using analog and digital clocks
- Organizes, represents, and interpret data with up to three categories (Can identify how many more or less in a in one category than another)
- identifies coins and bills and states their values

Geometry

- Reason with shapes, their attributes and compose new shapes (two dimensional and three dimensional)
- Demonstrates an understanding of fractions and how to divide them into equal parts

Mathematical Practices

The standards for mathematical practices describe a variety of expertise that should be developed in students in order to develop a mathematical mindset and to become a problem solver.

- 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
- 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
- 3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
- 4. Model with mathematics.**
- 5. Use appropriate tools strategically.**
- 6. Attend to precision.**
- 7. Look for and make use of structure.**
- 8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**

Science

Students will be given opportunities to discover, reinforce, and apply scientific concepts. Concepts are determined by the Michigan Academic Standards. The engineering design process will be applied and extended through the use of Project Lead the Way modular units and grade level units.

- 1. Demonstrates an understanding of Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**
- 2. Demonstrates an understanding of Life Science**
- 3. Demonstrates an understanding of Earth and Space Science**
- 4. Demonstrates an understanding of Physical Science**

Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way is the STEM Curriculum for Midland Public Schools. Each grade level engages in four interdisciplinary units in the areas of life science, physical science, earth and space science, technology and engineering. The units are designed with compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relates to the world around them.

- **Light and Sound**
- **Light: Observing the Sun, Moon, and Stars**
- **Animal Adaptations**

- **Animated Storytelling**

Social Studies

In first grade, students will focus on acquiring social studies knowledge and skills in five areas: history, geography, civics and government, economics and public discourse.

AREAS OF ASSESSMENT

1. **Demonstrates an understanding of history**
2. **Demonstrates an understanding of geography**
3. **Demonstrates an understanding of civics and government**
4. **Demonstrates an understanding of economics**
5. **Demonstrates an understanding of public discourse, decision-making, and citizen involvement**

ART

Young children benefit from a strong program of instruction in art that focuses on their natural abilities to perceive, create and appreciate the visual arts. Learning about art can be a catalyst for the development of language and vocabulary skills, knowledge about shapes, colors and patterns and classification of concepts. The curriculum is based on what children need to do, what they can do, their interests and is integrated into the various disciplines. Students receive instruction from an art specialist as well as the classroom teacher.

1. Is a cooperative learner
 - Ext Encourages others to follow directions, use supplies appropriately and respect the work of others.
 - Ach Follows directions, uses supplies appropriately, and respects the work of others.**
 - Dev Follows directions, uses supplies appropriately, and respects the work of others, with reminder.
 - LIM Has difficulty following directions, respecting the work of others or using supplies appropriately.
2. Acquiring skills and concepts
 - Ext Demonstrates self-motivation to expand concepts and techniques taught.
 - Ach Consistently demonstrates an understanding of concepts and techniques taught.**
 - Dev Generally demonstrates an understanding of concepts and techniques taught.
 - LIM Rarely demonstrates an understanding of concepts and techniques taught

GENERAL MUSIC

Children have opportunities for aesthetic expression and appreciation through music. The first grade curriculum provides lessons that develop enjoyment in listening, that use body movement to experience music and that allow students to experience musical instruments and singing.

The music curriculum and instruction are designed to develop children's musical abilities, provide awareness and gain knowledge, foster a sense of competence and complement other curricular areas. The music specialist and the classroom teacher work in mutually supportive roles to allow and encourage musical expression.

Students will work toward:

- learning to appreciate and enjoy a variety of musical styles and sounds
- showing cooperative behavior
- handling instruments with care and concern
- working well with others
- following directions
- participating actively in music activities
- building skills and concepts
- distinguishing between high-low; loud-soft; fast-slow
- matching pitches
- keeping a steady beat

1. Is a cooperative learner

Ext Demonstrates to other students the proper techniques for the use of instruments; consistently serves as a positive role model for other students; encourages other students to follow directions and value vocal music; participates with an enthusiasm and maturity beyond their age.

Ach Shows care and concern for proper handling of instruments; works well with others; consistently follows directions; participates with enthusiasm.

Dev Demonstrates an understanding of the use of instruments but does not always use good judgment; learning to work with other students; generally follows directions; participates.

LIM Misuses instruments; mistreats other students; does not follow directions; does not participate.

2. Acquiring pitch skills

Ext Is able to exceed the grade level standard for pitch matching and can make proper adjustments to intonation errors.

Dev Shows an understanding of the challenges in pitch matching and is working toward achieving the grade level standard.

LIM Is not yet able to match pitch and struggles in making progress toward this goal.

3. Acquiring rhythm skills

Ext Is able to exceed the grade level standard for keeping a steady beat and can make proper adjustments to tempo/pulse errors. May also indicate comfort with compound rhythmic figures and subdivisions beyond grade level standard.

Ach Is able to achieve the grade level standard for keep a steady beat and rhythmic subdivision.

Dev Shows an understanding of the challenges in keeping a steady beat and is working toward achieving the grade level standard.

LIM Is not yet able to keep a steady beat and struggles in making progress toward this goal.

Physical Education

Physical action is essential for first grade students to refine their developing skills, like balancing on a beam or jumping rope. Self-esteem and cognitive growth are also enhanced by physical activity. The certified physical education teacher provides lessons, activities and experiences that help students

develop their gross motor skills and knowledge of healthy behaviors. The students are assessed by the physical education teacher on knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Following the rules of a game
- Displaying good sportsmanship
- Working well with teammates
- Participating in physical activities
- Demonstrating body control
- Showing dexterity
- Acquiring gross motor skills
- Skipping smoothly
- Galloping smoothly
- Balancing on a balance beam
- Jumping rope 20-30 times
- Moving with assurance
- Hopping in a pattern
- Engaging in healthy habits
- Discussing illness prevention
- Being safe as a pedestrian
- Becoming cognizant of the difference(s) between medicines and illegal drugs

1. Acquiring gross motor skills

EXT Combines skipping, galloping and hopping in a rhythmic pattern; throws and catches with proper technique

ACH Skips smoothly, gallops smoothly, hops on either foot in a pattern

DEV Occasionally misses a step when skipping, occasionally misses a step when galloping, can only hop on one foot

LIM Does not have skipping pattern, does not have galloping pattern, cannot hop consistently

2. Demonstrate body control

EXT Anticipates space needs of self and others; avoids inappropriate body contact with others and objects

ACH Understands concepts of space (own, other, room); avoids body contact with others; shows dexterity

DEV Beginning to judge space appropriately; sometimes collides with others; improving dexterity

LIM Bumps into others, falls or slides frequently, trips self or others, lacks dexterity

3. Is a cooperative learner

EXT Actively demonstrates and encourages kindness and courtesy to others

ACH Follows directions, follow rules of games, works well with classmates

DEV Generally follows directions, understands use of equipment but does not always use good judgement, learning to play with classmates, occasionally makes negative remarks

LIM Misuses equipment, use inappropriate language, disrespectful of others

4. Participates

EXT Participates with enthusiasm.

ACH Consistently involved in appropriate activity.

DEV Timid about joining activities, avoids some activities.

LIM Refuses to join in physical activities.

World Language

Children today learn a world language through an approach different from when their parents were in school. Language acquisition and learning about a different culture is much improved when students are taught in the language through a fun, meaningful and functional approach. A young learner is more apt to make the most of learning a world language when comprehension and flexibility in thinking skills (such as concept learning, problem solving, and critical and divergent thinking) can be developed over time.

The first grade world language program reinforces basic skill areas by offering children a range of experiences connecting with mathematics, global awareness, language arts, music, physical activities, technology, art and science.

Developing listening comprehension in first grade is a very important part of the communication process. Listening comprehension and speaking build the language base necessary to move into pre-reading and writing. Students work toward some sound and sight word recognition.

Students will work towards:

- Demonstrating listening comprehension in world language
- Asking permission for personal needs
- Responding to world language cues and directions

1. Demonstrates listening comprehension in world language (following directions, repeating and responding)

Ext Applies prior learning in new situations; follows verbal directions, repeats or responds independently; responds accurately to verbal, total physical response or concrete clues.

Ach Follows verbal directions, repeats or responds; responds to simple verbal, total physical response or concrete clues consistently.

Dev Follows some general verbal directions with limited repeating or responding; responds to limited simple verbal, total physical response or concrete clues.

LIM Is not able to follow verbal directions, repeat or respond; is unable to respond to simple verbal, total physical response or concrete clues.

2. Comprehends and uses vocabulary on familiar topics

Ext Comprehends general information and vocabulary with ease when using objects, visuals, gestures and illustrations in speaking; uses words and phrases independently; begins to apply learned structures to new situations.

Ach Comprehends general information and produces vocabulary consistently when using objects, visuals, gestures and illustrations; imitates modeled words and phrases and uses them independently.

Dev Comprehends general information and some vocabulary when using objects, visuals, gestures and illustrations in speaking; imitates modeled words and phrases.

LIM Is not able to comprehend general information and vocabulary when using objects, visuals, gestures or illustrations in speaking; is unable to imitate modeled words and phrases.

3. Is a cooperative learner

Ext Serves as a positive role model for others, invites involvement of peers in the learning process, consistently demonstrates initiative, and shows consistent enthusiasm in classroom activities.

Ach Makes eye contact with speaker and is an engaged listener, often demonstrates initiative, attempts new activities once introduced, volunteers often, contributes appropriately in learning activities.

Dev Inconsistently makes eye contact with speaker, is hesitant but occasionally tries new activities with assistance and/or encouragement, contributes to learning activities with prompting.

LIM Rarely makes eye contact with speaker, seldom contributes to learning activities even with prompting, and demonstrates uncooperative behaviors with teachers and classmates.

NWEA

NWEA MAP Growth - MAP tests are based on a continuum of skills in Mathematics and Reading from low skill levels to high skill levels. MAP assessments help teachers identify the instructional level of the student and also provide context for determining where each student is performing in relation to local or state standards and national norms. NWEA MAP Growth is utilized grades 1-8 for Reading and Math. MAP Reading Fluency is used in Developmental Kindergarten and Kindergarten.