Belle Alexander School
Kewanee CUSD #229
1401 Lake Street
Kewanee, IL 61443

What First Graders Will Learn:

2018-2019 First Grade Reading Benchmarks

Saxon Phonics Program:

- There are 140 lessons in the program.
- The first 2 to 3 weeks are review of kindergarten phonics.
- Students will complete the first side of each phonics lesson at school and then will bring the page home. The first grade students' homework is to complete the other side of the phonics lesson at home as review with you.

Sight Words

- Sight words are words that the children cannot sound out. They must memorize them.
- They will need you to help them practice them at home.
- At the beginning of the first grade year, all students will be screened to make sure that they know all the kindergarten sight words.
- First grade students will have a list of sightwords for each quarter to learn.

Fluency:

- The ability to read smoothly without sounding out words and with few errors.
- Good fluency helps students to easily understand what they are reading.
- Each quarter students read a Saxon Phonics fluency reader to test their fluency speed.
- At the end of the first grade year, students should be able to read at least 67 words per minute with no more than 4 mistakes.

Spelling:

- Students will have a spelling list each week.
- There will be a spelling list test weekly.
- There will be a spelling sentence test weekly. The first quarter there will be 2 sentences of 4 words each. By the end of May there will be 4 sentences of 10 words each.
- Students must have 85% correct to be meeting first grade benchmarks.

First Grade Math

Number Sense

- Counts, reads, writes, orders and compares numbers to 120.
- Understands that two digits represent tens and ones.
- Groups and counts objects by tens and ones.
- Memorizes addition and subtraction facts to 10.
- Solve word problems that call for addition of two or three whole numbers.

Algebra and Functions

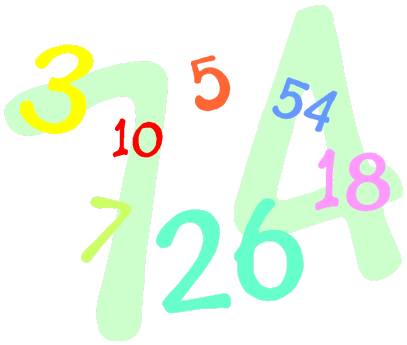
- Can solve addition and subtraction problems.
- Understands the meaning of the symbols +, -, =, <, >
- Writes number sentences to describe and solve addition and subtraction word problems.

Measurement/Data

- Compares length using nonstandard units.
- Tells time to the hour and half-hour.
- Collects, represents and compares data using graphs.

Geometry

- Identifies and describes two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Partition circles and rectangles into halves, fourths and quarters.



How Can You Help at Home:
PLEASE:

- Review the sight words 5 to 10 minutes a day.
- Go over the phonics page each day.
- Please get your child to school on time unless he or she is ill.
- Read to your child each day.
- Call or meet with your child's teacher if you have worries about reading. The teachers are here each day from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- Call or meet with your child's Title I funded teacher, who is here to help your child with extra language art teaching time.
- We also have a social worker and a speech therapist to help you.
- Make sure your child has had an eye exam.

How Will You Know How Your Child Is Doing?
PLEASE:

- Check your child's folder each day after school. The teachers will send the folder home in your child's book bag.
- You can always stay in touch with your child's teacher by writing a note in the folder.
- There are parent teacher conferences at the end of first quarter in October, and the end of third quarter in March.
- Call the teacher or make an appointment to meet with the teacher. The teachers are always willing to meet with you!
- The school has a Building Based Team (BBT) program. If your child is not making good progress, you will be invited to a meeting here at school to discuss ways to help your child.
- The BBT meetings are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. If those days do not work, we will meet at other times as well.