

## CURRICULUM

### LANGUAGE ARTS

My plan for the first few weeks of school will be to do a Kindergarten review with the students. This will help me assess areas that may need reinforcing before we jump into the first grade curriculum. This is something I do every year, but this year the review will be a bit more comprehensive. The students need to refine their fine motor skills, and master letter identification and phonemic awareness before they can successfully transition to our regular reading program. This review will be hands-on as opposed to being digitally based. There will be plenty of time for ipads and tablets later in the year. Be patient if these lessons are below your child's level. Practice makes progress! And don't worry! I promise they will be fluent and successful readers by the end of the school year.

Areas to be reviewed:

- Letter identification
  1. Identifying capital/uppercase letters
  2. Identifying lowercase letters
  3. Matching capital and lowercase letters
  4. Proper manuscript formation of letters
  5. Identifying consonants
  6. Identifying vowels
  7. Producing the phonetic sounds for consonants
  8. Producing the phonetic sounds for short vowels
  9. Review of \* High Frequency words
  10. Review of color words

### ***\*What are High Frequency Words?***

*High frequency words are quite simply those words which occur most frequently in written material, for example, "and", "the", "as" and "it". They are often words that have little meaning on their own, but they do contribute a great deal to the meaning of a sentence. Some of the high frequency words can be sounded out using basic phonic rules, e.g. "it" is an easy word to read using phonics. However, many of the high frequency words are not phonically regular and are therefore hard to read in the early stages. These words are sometimes called tricky words, sight words or camera words. In addition to being difficult to sound out, most of the high frequency words have a rather abstract meaning which is hard to explain to a child. It's easy to learn words like "cat" and "house" because they can easily be related to a real object or a picture, but how do you represent the word "the" or "of"? From [highfrequencywords.org](http://highfrequencywords.org)*

## MATH

Math will be a shorter review as many of the concepts introduced in Kindergarten are further investigated and developed in First Grade. Our Math series actually does a brief review of Kindergarten material. We will be using lots of manipulatives as we review these lessons. We will then proceed right into the Chapter 1 concepts listed below:

- Identification of numerals 0-20
- Making visual representations of numerals 0-20
- Writing numerals 0-20
- Identifying and spelling number words 0-12
- Counting to 100

## OTHER SUBJECTS

The students will engage in a regular first grade curriculum in Religion, Science, and Social Studies.

Formal Religion instruction from our text, *Our Heavenly Father* will begin the third week of school. The first two weeks I will be focusing on social-emotional areas as a part of *Our Good God Choices* supplemental curriculum.

Science and Social Studies are taught on a rotating basis. I will teach Social Studies for a few weeks and then switch to a Science unit. *STREAM* will be incorporated into many of these lessons. We are introducing the *Discovery Science* curriculum this year at SSPJ. The Social Studies curriculum is a program called *Studies Weekly*.

I am very excited to be teaching your child Art this year! I have a ton of fun and educational lessons already planned for what I call Friday Fun Day. I can't wait to get messy with them!

## **LANGUAGE ARTS HOMEWORK**

Most Language Arts homework will be posted and completed on Google Classroom this year. SSPJ utilizes this to host our students in grades 1-8. These online assignments are designed to review concepts being taught in class. Directions will be clearly indicated on each assignment.

## **WEEKLY READING**

In the past, students were given a hard copy of a Reading/Vocabulary folder. This hard copy folder has been eliminated this year to minimize the traveling of papers from home to school and back.

Each Monday Language Arts homework for the week, and due dates will be posted on Google Classroom. I intend to try to keep the format the same each week. Directions will be clearly indicated. Each week you will see a WORD LIST. This list will indicate the story for the week, High Frequency, Spelling, and Vocabulary words. These lists can be used on Google Classroom or can be printed out at home if you wish. Students will also be assigned stories to read on RAZ Kids each week. An additional component each week will be an area called WORD WORK. WORD WORK will focus on the phonics, spelling, or grammar skill being taught that week. It will often be an online component or game, eliminating a worksheet traveling to and from school. Last year during remote learning our families would take a photo of the completed hands-on work or worksheet and email it back to me. This year you will post that work/photo in Google Classroom.

While you are not physically bringing home/returning anything to the classroom, I cannot stress enough the importance of completing these assignments. To not complete them is doing a disservice to your child. Reading must be reinforced daily. I will be monitoring your access through Google Classroom and RAZ Kids. Acquiring the knowledge of these skills and words (especially the High Frequency words) will enable your child to become a more fluent and confident reader.

## **MATH HOMEWORK**

Math homework will most often be a physical worksheet brought home. Once the worksheet is returned to school, it will be “quarantined” for 48 hours before it is corrected by the teacher.

Math skills reinforcement will also take place on [IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com) or [Xtramath.org](https://www.xtramath.org). These reinforcement activities will also be monitored by the teacher online so it is important to complete them.

## **RELIGION HOMEWORK**

Religion homework will follow a weekly routine. Religion tests will be given on Friday each week. The Religion book will be sent home indicating the chapter to be read and reviewed on Thursday each week. Please return the book to school the next day.

## GENERAL CLASSROOM ROUTINES/POLICIES

**Specials Schedule** Children are to wear their gym uniforms and sneakers on gym days. If a school Mass is scheduled on a gym day, the children are to wear their dress school uniform and sneakers.

**Dismissal** If your child will not be using his/her regular mode of transportation home a note must be sent to the teacher. If a note is not sent, the child will be placed in the regular dismissal line. Please do not email changes in plans as I do not have time to check my email during the school day.

**Crayon Changes** When your child receives a crayon change to red or blue, a note will be sent home indicating the child's behavior. The note is to be signed and returned to the classroom teacher the next day. Your child may also sit out a portion of recess for a red or blue crayon and complete a short reflection about the behavior.

**Brag Tags** Brag tags are a fun positive reinforcement system we use in first grade. See info posted on our class web page.

**Lunch** You are encouraged to use the *PowerSchool* payment system for daily lunches. A lunch count will be taken each morning. It is not necessary to use the forms used in Pre-K/Kindergarten. If you do not use the *PowerSchool* system, lunch money needs to be in an envelope labeled with your child's full name and grade.

**Early Dismissal Days** Please note that no lunch will be served on early dismissal days. It is suggested that you send two snacks to school on those days.

**Friday Mail** Due to the volume of work generated by the students, all corrected papers will be sent home on Friday. *Friday Mail* (work completed and corrected for the week) is yours to keep at home. Take the time to review this work and see if there are any areas that need reinforcing at home. Please do not return these papers to school.

Papers indicated with a *letter grade* (\*see grading codes below) are used as an assessment of your child's performance. These are the grades that will appear on *PowerSchool*. Work indicated with a *star, sticker or check mark* are assignments that have been used to reinforce concepts being taught in first grade. Papers stamped *Spot Checked* are work that has been completed as a whole group activity and have not been formally checked/graded. Papers that need to be returned to be kept on file until conferences will be stamped *Please Sign and Return*. Please sign them and return to school the next day as they are part of your child's assigned homework for the evening. Work not completed in the time frame allotted or needing some polish will be stamped *Please Finish at Home and Return, Correct and Return* or *Classwork Not Completed*. I ask that you do not erase mistakes on corrected papers, but write corrections next to the item wrong, on the back of the paper or on a separate sheet of paper.

## Grading Codes

O	= Outstanding	Numerical Score 96-100
VG	= Very Good	Numerical Score 90-95
G	= Good	Numerical Score 84-89
S	= Satisfactory	Numerical Score 77-83
N	= Need for Improvement	Numerical Score 70-76
U	= Unsatisfactory	Numerical Score 69-55

**Communication** Please be sure that I have your correct email address for communication purposes. This was very crucial last year during the closure. If you want both parents to be a part of any email chain please be sure to provide both email addresses. Under normal school conditions, I will check my emails when I arrive in the morning (between 7:00 and 7:30 AM) and every evening between 6 and 9 PM, circumstances permitting. Please feel free to contact me anytime via email but please take into consideration that I may not have time to check my email during the instructional portion of the school day. Urgent correspondence should be addressed by calling the school office and leaving a message for me. I will return your call as soon as my school day schedule permits.

korp.kathy@spsj.org

School Phone 859-1244

**First Grade Web Page** [spsjfirst.weebly.com](http://spsjfirst.weebly.com) This can also be accessed by going to the school web page under *Academics*.

**School Web Page** [www.sspjnj.org](http://www.sspjnj.org)

For more detailed information on general SSPJ Policies and Procedures please consult the **SSPJ Handbook**. [Student/Parent Handbook](#)

**Forms** [Forms](#) Please check to see which forms need to be returned to school.

**PowerSchoolParentAccess**

<http://sspjnj.org/uploads/docs/201819powerschoolparentdisclaimer.pdf>

**Reopening Plan** <http://sspjnj.org/uploads/docs/202021reopeningplan.pdf>

## **Websites We Will Be Using This Year**

**Google Classroom** SSPJ utilizes this to host our students in grades 1-8. Utilizing this platform early in the school year for homework will make a transition to remote learning easier in the event we need to go in that direction.

**RAZ Kids** <https://www.raz-kids.com/>

**IXL** <https://www.ixl.com/>

**ExtraMath** <https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>

**BOOM Learning** <https://wow.boomlearning.com/signin/student>

## **Studies Weekly**

Some of these sites will require student login information. Others will be connected to your Google Classroom account. I will send you a complete list of your child's usernames and passwords by mid-September. Homework assignments may be to access specific areas of these sites. More info to follow as the year progresses.

