

# First Baptist of Roswell

## Pre-First

### Overview

Thank you for taking an interest in the First Baptist of Roswell's Pre-First program. For the most part, the program is a bridge program for students who have completed kindergarten, but for one reason or another are not ready for first grade. Some reasons for students to participate in this program include:

1. The child needs some more time to mature, even though he/she is academically capable of going to first grade
2. The child is not academically ready to go to first grade.
3. The child is academically capable of going to first grade, but is not old enough to enroll in first grade.

The curriculum used in the classroom follows the first grade curriculum for the state of Georgia with modifications made for specific students. The reading program is a balanced approach to literacy. A combination of phonics, shared reading (whole class instruction), guided reading (small group instruction) and writing are incorporated on a daily basis. The phonics and guided reading curriculum come from the website Reading A-Z.com. Feel free to visit the website to get an idea of the range of reading materials available to use with your child. The phonics program entails 68 lessons that cover the basic sounds and moves the children into the more difficult sounds to comprehend (ie digraphs and diphthongs). The guided reading materials are broken into levels aa - Z. Levels aa - C are considered kindergarten level reading. Levels D-I are considered first grade level reading, etc. The website provides assessment materials to aid the teacher in determining which level the student is working on instructionally and independently. From the assessment, the class is broken into groups to help the students improve on their level. Students are assessed on a regular basis to ensure that improvement is happening.

The shared reading program is the Houghton Mifflin Invitations to Literacy First grade curriculum. These books are read together as a class and lessons are taught in a whole group.

Writing a-z is the website where the writing curriculum is accessed. The curriculum has daily grammar lessons and a wealth of resources to aid in teaching writing to the students. The goal in writing is for the student to be able to produce coherent stories by the end of the year with at least 3 sentences on the same topic.

Homework consists of a packet with several sheets pertaining to lessons learned during the week. The packet is sent home the first day of the school week and is due the last day of the school week. On the cover of the packet are the spelling words for the week. A spelling test is given on the last day (usually Friday) of the school week. The words typically consist of words relating to the phonics lessons for the week as well as some sight words.

Math instruction consists of a daily warm up sheet (5 math related problems that the class completes together) and lessons from the Houghton Mifflin Mathematics First Grade program. Math manipulatives are used to aid students in understanding concepts and worksheets are used as reinforcement. Concepts that are taught include: representing numbers to 100 using a variety of models, diagrams, and number sentences; correctly counting and representing the number of objects in a set using numerals; comparing sets; determining money value and making equivalent trades; representing collections of less than 30 objects with 2-digit numbers; knowing the single digit addition and subtraction facts to 18; applying addition and subtraction to 2-digit numbers without regrouping; skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s forward and backward to and from numbers up to 100; identifying, labelling, and relating fractions (halves, fourths); using informal strategies to share objects equally; comparing length, weight, and capacity of concrete objects; estimating and measuring a non-standard unit; telling time to the nearest hour and half hour; developing an understanding of calendar time and duration of events; building, drawing, naming and describing triangles, rectangles, pentagons, hexagons, cylinders, cones, and rectangular prisms; collecting data and creating simple tables and graphs and interpreting them.

Science, Social Studies, and Health are taught during lunch bunch time. The Scholastic News is used to teach seasonal lessons as well as current events.

Computer and Spanish are taught one day a week by a specialized teacher.

Due to the small class size and student-teacher ratio, we are able to cater to each child's individual needs. If a child is not making adequate progress, it is possible to identify and reinforce skills. If a child is in need of greater challenges, we offer enrichment.

Procedures:

1. Please have your child wear his/her name tag for the first week of school.
2. Questions and concerns can be directed to the school office at any time during school hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Your child's teacher will respond as soon as possible.
3. Conferences will be held in October with your child's teacher and another conference will be held in early March. If necessary, a final conference will be held in April.
4. Report cards will go home around the end of November, February, and May. You do not need to sign and return the report card. The grading system is:
  - S= Satisfactory
  - N= Needs improvement
  - NE= Not evaluated
5. We attempt to have at least one field trip each month. Field trips are taken to enrich activities done in the classroom. Permission forms must be signed in order for your child to attend. Your child's safety is our number one priority. All children must be in a booster seat. There will be no exceptions!
6. Please put your child's name on all personal belongings (sweaters, jackets, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc.)
7. The lunch bunch program is held Monday through Thursday. Although the program is optional, teaching does occur during this time. If a student misses lunch bunch, he/she misses 45 minutes of instruction. Students need to bring their lunch.
8. A monthly calendar is sent home. On the calendar, the snack schedule is listed. Please send enough snack for the entire class each day during the week(s) you are assigned. Please try to send in healthy snacks with a variety of sweet and salty choices (fruits, crackers, cheese, etc.).
9. All children will come through carpool. Please be at school at 8:45 in order for your child to be in the room and working by 9:00. Afternoon carpool begins at 12:00 or at the end of lunch bunch (1:15) Monday through Thursday and 12:00 noon for all students on Friday.
10. During the month of March, the students complete the SAT 10 (Stanford Achievement Test). It is a standardized test that assesses reading, spelling, listening, and mathematics. The test is given over several days. The tests are returned to the test administrators to be graded. Test scores arrive before the end of the school year.
11. Students participate in Spanish and computer classes once a week.

Daily schedule:

8:45 until 9:10 Morning work

9:10 until 9:25 Pledge, devotional and scripture memory, calendar

9:25 until 10:00 Math

10:00 until 10:15 Snack/Restroom break/Story Time

10:15 until 11:00 Language Arts (Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Phonics)

11:00 until 11:30 Music

11:30 until 12:00 Recess

12:00 Carpool or Lunch Bunch

12:00 until 12:30 Lunch

12:30 until 1:15 Writing, Reading Enrichment, Social Studies/Science

The class participates in the Christmas music program during the month of December.

Curriculum used in the classroom.

Houghton Mifflin Math - Grade 1

Houghton Mifflin Language Arts - Invitations to Literacy Grade 1 Anthology

Reading A-Z Phonics program and Guided Reading \*\* [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

Writing A-Z - Write Rights (daily grammar lessons) \*\* [www.writinga-z.com](http://www.writinga-z.com)

Writing prompts (for journal writing)

Scholastic News- for seasonal lessons and current events

Explode the Code ( a phonics based supplement)

A variety of easy to read mini books are also used to teach seasonal lessons

Listening activities are done throughout the year to help students hone their listening skills

\*\*Feel free to visit the websites listed on the page. It is a subscription site, but you are able to visit the site and see the sample lessons. You should also be able to use a day pass to visit the entire site.