



# Welcome to First Grade!

## 2023-2024 School Year

I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year! We are implementing some new strategies in class this year as well as keeping some of our old best practices and online programs to use in class and at home. As we are well aware, there are a multitude of online supplements available to the public, and the sheer number can be overwhelming! Our goal the past few years was to find a few really good supplements to use both in class and at home to maximize learning without overwhelming parents, teachers, or students with too many websites. Below, you will find the name of a website or app that we are using to enhance learning as well as a brief description of how we will be implementing it in class. Here's to a bright, happy, and safe school year!

## Online Programs

### SeeSaw

- This is the learning module that is implemented for the younger grades instead of Google Classroom. The program is geared to be more child-friendly. There is a parent app to download where you will be able to see your child's work and progress. We will practice how to use this program as a whole group before occasionally having independent work in class. I do NOT plan on assigning homework on SeeSaw.



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## XtraMath

- This free app will be used as needed to reinforce math facts skills through games or online assignments.



## Epic

- This free website has age and reading-level appropriate recommendations that can be customized to your child's interest. Teachers can track progress and assign a variety of books, videos, and more to grow your child's skills and grow his or her curiosity.



## Dreamscapes

- This free website/app has age and level appropriate reading passages and ELA skills to practice in an online gaming format. Teachers can track progress and assign "missions" throughout the year to help students grow in their learning. Students also love the "battle" feature of the game.



## Prodigy

- This free website is used to reinforce a variety of math skills; from basic facts to more specialized questions about measurement, time, and geometry. Students pick an avatar and go on "battles" with their creatures. To "attack" in battles, they must answer math questions correctly.



## IXL

- This online program/app pulls information from your student's MAP test scores to help each child reach his or her fullest potential. This program is used as additional practice in class or as an additional way to assess for mastery.

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## Orientation Information

### **Daily Schedule**

7:30-7:35	Homeroom
7:35-8:05	Morning Circle
8:05-8:40	Religion
8:40-9:30 or 10:00	Specials (See Specials Schedule)
9:30 or 10:00- 11:15	Academics
11:15-11:45	Lunch
11:45-12:45	Academics
12:45-1:15	Recess
1:15-1:50	Academics
1:50-2:00	Pack Up
2:00-2:10	Afternoon Circle

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## Specials Schedule

Day 1

Library until 10:00



Day 2

Music until 9:30



Day 3

Physical Education until 9:30

& Exploration



Day 4

Art until 10:00



## Day 5

### STEM until 9:30

\*On your child's PE day, they will come to school in the gym uniform.

\*On these days, the students will start in their special, then split the remaining 50 minutes between the special and small group time with the classroom teacher.

\*On Day 3, students will also have exploration from 1:15 until 1:50

**My main method of communication is through my email ([jaimethompson@sjs-amherst.org](mailto:jaimethompson@sjs-amherst.org)). While I do check my messages on my phone, I am usually able to respond more quickly to an email. I do not use other methods of communication, like Remind, for my classroom.**