

Introduction

We are pleased to provide this overview of the first grade academic program at Lexis Prep. Our carefully developed curriculum provides Lexis Prep students with a strong college-prep education in the setting of personalized instruction.

The following guide gives an overall picture of what a Lexis Prep student will learn in first grade. The individual learner and classroom needs will determine how the guide is implemented in the classroom.

English Language Arts and Reading

Students at Lexis Prep benefit from an English Language Arts and Reading curriculum that teaches students not just how to read and write, but also the meaning and purpose of what they are learning. The Lexis Prep curriculum utilizes the *Imagine It!* program which is correlated to the national standards put forth by the National Reading Panel. This curriculum includes the areas of: Foundational Skills; Literature; Informational Text; Language; Speaking and Listening; and Writing. The standards offer a focus for instructional practices and strategies and help ensure students gain adequate exposure to a range of learning opportunities.



The *Imagine It!* English Language Arts and Reading program thoroughly addresses the five key areas of reading: phonemic awareness; systematic, explicit phonics; fluency; vocabulary; and comprehension. The curriculum lays the foundation of reading skills, provides practice increasing confidence, assesses progress, provides additional help and challenges, guides through inquiry, questioning, investigating and exploring, teaches writing strategies, offers a variety of genres, and bolsters instruction with the use of technology resources.

Reading Standards for Foundational Skills

Phonological Awareness

- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and phonemes

Phonics and Word Recognition

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words

Fluency

- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions about key details and events in a text
- Retell stories, demonstrating understanding of the central message or lesson
- Describe characters, settings, and key events in a story



Craft and Structure

- Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses
- Distinguish major categories of writing, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types
- Identify who is speaking at various points in a story, myth, fable, or narrative poem

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Use pictures, illustrations, and details in a story to describe characters, events, or settings
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors/cultures

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently literature texts appropriately complex for first grade

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions about key information and events in a text
- Identify the main topic, main ideas, and key details of a text
- Describe the connection between two key events or ideas in a text

Craft and Structure

- Determine meanings of words and phrases encountered in text relevant to first grade
- Describe how a text groups information into general categories
- Distinguish between information provided by pictures, illustrations and words in a text

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Use pictures, illustrations, and details in a text to describe the key ideas
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships in a text
- Identify similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently informational texts for first grade

Language Standards

Conventions in Writing and Speaking

- Observe conventions of grammar and usage
- Observe conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine word meanings
- Understand word relationships
- Use newly learned words acquired through conversations, reading, and responding to texts

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Initiate and participate in conversations with peers and adults about topics studied in class
- Restate orally and through media informational key elements and details

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events with relevant details
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes

- Write opinions in which the topic or the name of the book is introduced
- Write informative and explanatory texts using a topic, relevant facts and closure
- Write narratives including at least two sequenced events with details and a sense of closure

Production and Distribution of Writing

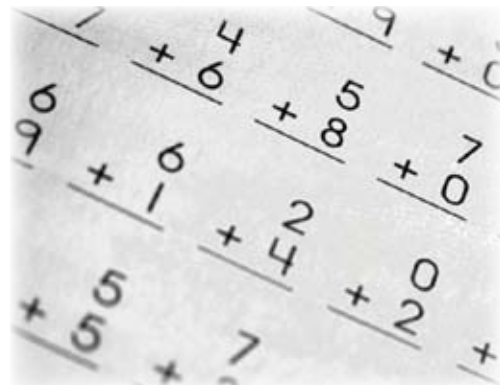
- Add details to strengthen writing as needed through revision

Research to Build Knowledge

- Participate in shared research and writing projects
- Gather information from experiences or provided text sources to answer a specific question

Mathematics

The goal of the Lexis Prep K-4 mathematics program is for our students to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and use mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts. The expectation is that they will achieve mathematical proficiency through the mastery of mathematic skills, concepts, and processes. This goal is met through the opportunity to develop, practice and review concepts over time. Lexis Prep students move from the concrete to the pictorial to the abstract through a deliberate sequence of instruction. Our students' regular exposure to critical thinking and problem solving prepares them for real world applications.



The Lexis Prep mathematics curriculum is aligned with both the National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Standards and Benchmarks as well as Saxon Math. The standards outlined below show the general progression of topics over the course of the school year. Parents can be confident their child will receive thorough mathematics instruction.

Lexis Prep Math Standards Correlated with NCTM Standards and Saxon Math

Number and Operations and Algebra

- Develop understanding of addition and subtraction and strategies for basic addition facts and related subtraction facts
- Develop strategies for adding and subtracting whole numbers with small numbers
- Use discrete objects, length-based models, and number lines to model addition and subtraction
- Understand connections between counting and the operations of addition and subtraction
- Use properties of addition (commutativity and associativity) to add whole numbers

Number and Operations

- Develop an understanding of whole number relationships, including grouping in tens and ones
- Compare and order whole numbers (to at least 100) to solve problems involving relative sizes
- Understand whole numbers between 10 and 100 in terms of groups of tens and ones
- Understand the sequential order of the counting numbers and represent numbers on a number line

Geometry

- Compose and decompose geometric shapes
- Compose and decompose plane and solid figures to understand part-whole relationships
- Combine figures, describe geometric attributes and properties, and determine likenesses and differences
- Develop a background for measurement with initial understandings of congruence and symmetry

Number and Operations and Algebra

- Use mathematical reasoning with tens and ones to solve two-digit addition and subtraction problems
- Solve both routine and non-routine problems

Measurement and Data Analysis

- Solve problems involving measurements and data
- Measure by laying multiple copies of a unit end to end and counting them with groups of tens and ones
- Represent measurements and discrete data in picture and bar graphs

Algebra

- Identify, describe, and apply number patterns and properties for basic facts of odd and even and 0

Science



The Lexis Prep science program provides students with opportunities to think and act like scientists. Lexis Prep students acquire scientific knowledge, practice science process skills, and apply science concepts through reading and observing, as well as by conducting investigations that have real-world applications.

First grade science is organized into three disciplines: life science, physical science, and science and technology. All science outcomes are aligned to the National Science Education (NSE) Standards.

Lexis Prep utilizes Delta Education which provides a kit-based curriculum and instructional resources that correlate with state standards. Delta Education provides the expertise to ensure the best combination of materials are selected for each grade level in order to align the Lexis Prep curriculum with the science concepts, inquiry nature, and developmental appropriateness reflected in the state standards.

Lexis Prep Science Standards Correlated with NSE and Delta Education

Unit 1: Finding the Moon

Students explore **Finding the Moon** with twelve hands-on activities and the Delta Science Reader. They discover that Earth's nearest neighbor in space is far more interesting than any storybook moon. Through direct observations and modeling exercises, students learn the moon is visible day and night, rises and sets, appears to change shape, casts shadows, reflects light, and lacks air and water. Students record daily drawings of the full lunar cycle in a four-week Moon Journal. They then demonstrate the phases of the moon, and its far side. Students also form craters on a "moon dust" surface and handle substances very similar to moon soil and rocks.

The Delta Science Reader *Finding the Moon* introduces students to what we see in the sky and to Earth's closest neighbor, the moon. Students discover what makes the moon appear to shine and why the moon appears to have different shapes. They read about craters, seas, and other parts of the moon's environment. Students are introduced to Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon. They also compare the size of the moon to that of Earth and the sun.

Unit 2: From Seed to Plant

In **From Seed to Plant**, students are introduced to ten different types of plants, and they turn the classroom green as they explore how plants grow. Working with both collective and individual planters, students observe the parts of a seed and, in time, the parts of a plant. As their vegetables, beans, grasses, and flowers develop shoots and roots, then stems and leaves, students discover the link between structure and function. They learn what plants need to grow and, as pods and seeds appear, how the life cycle continues.

The Delta Science Reader *From Seed to Plant* introduces students to the life cycle of a plant. Students read about the parts of seeds and how seeds develop into plants. They explore the functions of different plant parts and see what a plant needs to grow. Students find out about gardeners and why the plants they grow are important. They also discover the fascinating ways seeds travel from place to place.

Unit 3: Investigating Water

In **Investigating Water**, students explore water, the most abundant substance on Earth, using many tools and techniques. After using their senses to determine some of water's properties, students pour, mix, filter, and freeze water. They watch water climb, bubble, condense, and take different shapes. Students learn how to use pipets and wire wands, vials, and funnels, becoming familiar with scientific procedures and equipment. Experimental setups and trials help student define such scientific vocabulary as sink, float, dissolve, and evaporate. They also compare water to other liquids and experiment with filtering muddy water.

In the Delta Science Reader *Investigating Water*, students read about the properties of water. They learn that water can exist as a solid, a liquid, or a gas and find out how water changes from one state to another. Students observe that objects either sink or float in water and that some substances dissolve in water. They also read about scientists who study glaciers in Antarctica. Lastly, students discuss the importance of water to living things and ways to conserve water.

Social Studies

Lexis Prep students enjoy *My School and My Family*, the TCI *Social Studies Alive!* curriculum for first grade. *Social Studies Alive!* consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to master key social studies concepts. The *Social Studies Alive!* approach is characterized by eight features: theory and research based active instruction, standards based content, preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching, considerate text, graphically organized reading notes, processing assignment, and assessments to inform instruction.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has organized grade level content into Ten Thematic Units of Instruction that form the framework of the social studies standards. All ten themes are found at each grade level of *Social Studies Alive!* with specific themes enhanced at different grade levels. The focal themes in first grade are bolded below.

- Culture
- Time, continuity, and change
- People, places, and environments
- **Individual development and identity**
- **Individuals, groups and institutions**
- Power, authority, and governance
- **Production, distribution, and consumption**
- Science, technology and society
- Global connections
- **Civic ideals and practices**



The Lexis Prep social studies curriculum is content and benchmark aligned with the NCSS thematic units. Where objectives overlap with other grade levels, the objectives are met using different age-appropriate content and activities at each grade level.

Lexis Prep Social Studies Standards Correlated with NCSS and *Social Studies Alive!*

Unit: My School and Family

- Understand responsibilities as classmates including exploring ways to get along in school
- Discover the importance of learning from and accepting one another
- Understand the reasons for having rules and the consequences of not following them
- Compare the typical duties of a teacher, principal, secretary, and custodian and how each contributes to the school community
- Discuss student contributions at school such as helping others, respecting school property, being positive, and solving problems
- Learn what maps are and how to use them including reading a classroom map, key, and a compass rose
- Compare schools of long ago to schools of today
- Identify and categorize different groups to which students may belong such as school, family, and community
- Discuss how all families are special in different ways such as family members, types of homes, and family activities
- Differentiate between the needs and wants of families
- Discuss how family members care for each other through helping, sharing, and spending time together
- Learn about ways families change over time
- Explore personal family traditions and learn about the traditions of others
- Explore personal responsibilities as good neighbors in a neighborhood

National Standards for Visual Arts

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 visual arts education include:

- Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
- Use knowledge of structure and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines



National Standards for Music Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 music education include:



- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture

National Standards of Physical Education

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines five major focus areas specifying what a physically educated person is capable of performing. These focus areas are:

- Learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities
- Be physically fit
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Know the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities
- Value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle



The Difference Maker: Lexis Accent

Customizing is the Key to Success for Each Child

The hallmark of a Lexis Prep education is our personalized approach called Lexis Accent. We know some students need an extra emphasis in their academic program and Lexis Accent is our tool to do that. This customization may include special one-on-one and small group sessions during the school day. These specialized sessions give the Lexis Prep staff the opportunity to focus on the particular learning needs of every child.



Writing - Students receive extra support in the writing process from draft to final copy, including areas such as voice, style, conventions, and research skills.

Reading - A focused time spent on phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Math - Students use manipulatives while receiving extra instruction in order to ensure mastery of all mathematics concepts.

Social Skills - Students learn practical strategies for developing appropriate friendships, understanding social nuances, and being comfortable in social situations.

As part of the enrollment process, your child will be evaluated to determine if he would benefit from personalized time in any of these areas. If so, it will be included as part of his education plan. There is no additional charge for these classes as we have found the Lexis Accent program is key to ensuring success in a college prep program.

Your child may also work with an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Counselor at Lexis Prep. These are provided by a third party and there is an extra charge for these services.

Executive Function: Prepare for a Lifetime of Success

The ability to self-regulate is essential for success in life. At Lexis Prep, we call this executive function, a well-known concept that entails many different skills and abilities. Children with ADD or ADHD frequently struggle in this area so we put special emphasis on developing this skill in all our students.

According to Joyce Cooper-Kahn and Laurie Dietzel (*Late, Lost and Unprepared*), executive function can be defined as “a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one’s resources in order to achieve a goal. It is an umbrella term for the neurologically-based skills involving mental control and self-regulation.” Skills and abilities that make up executive function include self-monitoring, planning, organization, emotional control, initiation, shifting, and working memory.

All Lexis Prep students spend time each day learning and practicing these critical executive function skills. Executive function is built into our curriculum and is also explicitly taught with the goal of helping every student effectively develop and utilize these important life skills.

