Unit 1: Getting to Know Us

Content Area: **Sample Content Area**
Course(s): **ELA Gr 1**
Time Period: **SeptOct**
Length: **30 Days**
Status: **Published**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

First Grade ELA/Writing

Unit 1: Getting to Know Us

Belleville Board of Education

102 Passaic Avenue

Belleville, NJ 07109

Prepared by: Ms. Elaine Mendez

Dr. Richard Tomko, Ph.D., M.J., Superintendent of Schools

Ms. LucyAnn Demikoff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12

Ms. Nicole Shanklin, Director of Elementary Education

Mr. George Droste, Director of Secondary Education

Board Approved: September 23, 2019

Unit Overview

During Unit 1: Getting to Know Us, first graders focus on things that make them special. They mention things such as drawing, dancing, and sports. They will discuss favorite things to do and work with partners to see how they are both different yet similar. The students will be exposed to both fiction and nonfiction texts as they continue to manipulate language and their understanding of reading to become fluent readers.

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that...

- there are different things that students do at school.
- people live in many different kinds of places.
- pets need us to make them happy and to take care of them.
- friends can do fun things when they are together.
- our bodies can do so many different things.
- everyone is different and that makes us special.

Essential Questions

- What do you do at your school?
- What is it like where you live?
- What makes a pet special?
- What do friends do together?
- How does your body move?
- What makes you special?

Exit Skills

By the end of Unit 1: Getting to Know Us, students should be able to...

- cite relevant evidence from text.
- ask and answer questions about key details.
- retell the text.
- write informative pieces.
- write narrative text pieces.
- engage in collaborative conversations with peers.
- explore how school is a community.
- explore how our environment affects the way we live.
- use sentences.
- develop vocabulary.
- identify short vowel sounds.
- apply foundational skills in connected text.
- use word order.
- use statements.
- use context clues to understand unknown words.
- identify beginning consonant blends.
- -s plural nouns.
- identify the main topic and retell key details.
- use illustrations/photos.
- use questions and exclamations.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)

LA.RL.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
LA.RL.1.2	Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
LA.RL.1.3	Describe characters, settings, and major event(s) in a story, using key details.
LA.RL.1.10	With prompting and support, read and comprehend stories and poetry at grade level text complexity or above.
LA.RI.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
LA.RI.1.2	Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
LA.RI.1.4	Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
LA.RI.1.6	Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.
LA.RI.1.7	Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
LA.RI.1.10	With prompting and support, read informational texts at grade level text complexity or above.
LA.RF.1.1	Demonstrate mastery of the organization and basic features of print including those listed under Kindergarten foundation skills.

LA.RF.1.1.A	Recognize the distinguishing features of a sentence (e.g., first word, capitalization, ending punctuation).
LA.RF.1.2	Demonstrate mastery of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes) by using knowledge that every syllable must have a vowel sound to determine the number of syllables in a printed word.
LA.RF.1.2.A	Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.
LA.RF.1.2.B	Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends.
LA.RF.1.2.C	Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.
LA.RF.1.2.D	Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual sounds (phonemes).
LA.RF.1.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
LA.RF.1.3.A	Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs (two letters that represent one sound).
LA.RF.1.3.B	Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
LA.RF.1.4.C	Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.
LA.W.1.2	Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
LA.SL.1.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
LA.SL.1.1.B	Build on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.
LA.SL.1.1.C	Ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.
LA.SL.1.2	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
LA.L.1.1.A	Print all upper- and lowercase letters.
LA.L.1.4.A	Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Interdisciplinary Connections

- History/Social Sciences (Ethical Literacy): "Let's Be Friends"
- History/Social Sciences (Geographic Location): "Where I Live"
- Science (Life Sciences): "Our Pets"
- Science (Life Sciences): "Let's Move!"

SOC.6.1.4.D.CS3	Personal, family, and community history is a source of information for individuals about the people and places around them.

Learning Objectives

In Unit 1: Getting to Know Us, students will be able to...

- follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
- demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.

- isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.
- decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- recognize and generate initial sound alliteration.
- recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
- use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words.
- decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
- understand fantasy genre.
- write informative/ explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- identify and use correct word order.
- ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.
- ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- understand fantasy genre.
- visualize a text read aloud.
- write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.
- use end punctuation for sentences.
- orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends.
- decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- read words with inflectional endings.
- retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression.

Suggested Activities & Best Practices

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY

Weekly Projects

Each week children will produce a project related to the Essential Question. They will then develop one of these projects more fully for the Unit Research Project. Through their research, children will focus their attention on:

• choosing print and online sources.
• summarizing information from multiple sources.• working with a partner.
• drawing representations of real things.

Shared Research Board

You may wish to develop a Shared Research Board. Children can post ideas and information about the unit theme. Children can post drawings, sources, or facts they gather as they do their research. They can also post notes with questions they have as they conduct their research.

WEEKLY PROJECTS

Children work in pairs or small groups.
Week 1 Informational Class Book, T44
Week 2 Informative Venn Diagram, T122
Week 3 Informative Poster, T200
Week 4 Informative Poster, T278
Week 5 Informative Visual Record, T356
Week 6 Children work in small groups to complete and present one of the following projects.

- Song
- Travel Poster
- Diorama
- Game Directions
- List of Activities

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- Wonders Assessments (Unit Tests, Fluency, etc.) (Summative)
- Wonders Weekly Assessments (Summative)
- Informative & Narrative Writing (Summative)
- DRA2 Results (Benchmark)
- Anecdotal Records (Formative)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports

- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

- McGraw Hill Wonders Reading Anthology
- Reading/Writing Workshop Model
- Big Book
- Close Reading Companion (online)
- Your Turn Practice Book
- High Frequency Word Cards
- Photo Cards
- Interactive Read-Aloud Cards
- Retelling Cards
- Word-Building Cards
- Teaching Posters
- Go Digital Components (Wonders Online)
- DRA2 Kit

Ancillary Resources

- Smart Television
- Smartboards
- Student Laptops/Tablets
- Decodable Readers
- Leveled Readers

- Literacy Centers
- Anchor Charts
- Word Wall

Technology Infusion

- McGraw Hill Website: Access Through Google Waffle
- Wonders Multimedia Library
- Wonders Listening Library
- Wonders Interactive Listening
- Wonders Unit/Weekly Video Clip Openers
- Wonders Weekly Song Library



Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

Mastery and infusion of 21st Century Skills & Technology and their alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World Languages;
- Technology;

- Visual and Performing Arts

CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
TECH.8.1.2	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.2.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

Differentiation

Students will be exposed to different teaching strategies in support of the diverse learning needs that encompass a classroom. Strategies such as the use of Word Walls, anchor charts, and small group instruction will help teachers meet students' needs. Through the Readers and Writers framework, teachers will also employ differentiation strategies through intentional, data driven instruction that targets and supports all learners. Ongoing conferences, anecdotal records, and formative assessments will also help teachers focus on student needs.

Differentiation

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments

- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiation

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiation

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities

- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

Following IEP and 504 guidelines for specific modifications and accommodations, teachers can utilize the Readers and Writers frame work to help support special education students as they gain equitable access to grade level standards. Conferences, small group instruction, anchor charts, and frequent checks or understanding add and support the necessary data to ensure all students are making progress. Additionally, special education students have access to Wonder Works which supports their learning needs.

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multi-sensory presentation
- multiple test sessions
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments

- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

ELLs will benefit from the use of Visual Vocabulary Cards, Language Transfer Handbook, Retelling Cards, and graphic organizers to help them make sense of the readings. Additionally, by following the Readers and Writers framework, teachers will be able to support students through intentional conferencing and small group instruction that targets their learning needs and improves comprehension and movement toward grade level mastery.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarif
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

At Risk

At Risk students will benefit from the use of Visual Vocabulary Cards, Retelling Cards, and graphic organizers to help them make sense of the readings. Additionally, by following the Readers and Writers framework, teachers will be able to support students through intentional conferencing and small group instruction that targets their learning needs and improves comprehension and movement toward grade level mastery.

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be

determined prior to giving the test.

- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

Talented and Gifted Learners will benefit from learning through the Readers and Writers framework. Teachers will be able to support talented and gifted students through intentional conferencing and small group instruction that supports their interests and learning needs.

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

First Grade, Unit 4: Animals Everywhere

NJSLS: Linked Below

I**nterdisciplinary Connection:** Social Studies

Statement of Objective: Students will be able to use the strategy "sound out words" when they come across an unknown word.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now: "Boys and girls, it's time to THINK NOW! As you join me in the carpet think about yesterday's skill, breaking and joining letter sounds to make words, and how you used this skill when you practiced reading on your own."

Learning Activity:

Connection (1 minute)

"Remember, we learned that the letters of the alphabet make different sounds. For example, last week we learned that ai, a_e, and ay make the long A sound. Some words that have the long a sound are: cake, pay, and made. (Give additional examples as necessary). Good readers blend letter sounds to make a word. When we read, it is important to blend these letter sounds together to make a word." "Today I'm going to teach you that when good readers come to a word they do not know, they take the time to sound it out."

Teaching (5 min)

Give Students a Brief Description of Strategy and Why It's Important

- "Boys and girls, sometimes when I am reading,I come across a word I do not know. Instead of skipping the word, I take the time to sound it out by blending the letter sounds."

- "Good readers do this because it helps them understand what they are reading."

Let me show you what I mean .....

- Teacher: Before reading the short story "A Team of Fish", display the long /e/ words.

- "Boys and girls, the letters e, ee, ea, and ie make the long /e/ sound as in sea, meat, and chief. Let's begin reading and see if we can sound out some long e words we don't know."

- "Fish swim in lakes and...hmmm... I don't recognize this word. Let me sound it out. /c/ /r/ /ee/ /k/. I see a double /ee/. I know that makes the long E sound. Let's try sounding it out again....CREEK. The word is creek."

(Model with additional words as necessary)

Recap ..... Did you see what I did?

"Did you see how when I came to a word I did not know that I stopped, sounded out the word by blending the letter sounds?"

Active Engagement (3 min)
Allows for guided practice

Now it's your turn to try this.....
Teacher: Use the Wonders Online Platform. In Unit 4, Week 2, find the Phonics Activity: Isolation Long E. Display the Qu_n (Queen) phonics activity page.

"By looking at the picture, I know that this word is QUEEN. Look at these two words. Turn and talk to your partner and sound out each word. Which word has the long e sound?" After 2 minutes, purposefully choose two readers to share how they blended the letter sounds to say the words "real and "rent". Also have a student tell which word has the long /e/ sound.

Allow for additional practice as necessary.

Link (1 min) Linking mini lesson to their independent work

“Today, I just taught you that when good readers come to a word they do not know, they take the time to sound it out.”

“When you go off to read today, you’re going to practice blending the letter sounds to make a word while you read your own books. Now that you know this is something that good readers do, you can use this skill whenever you read.”

***Note: Add this strategy to your Unit anchor chart.**

Independent Reading
Suggested time: Build to 30 minutes over the school year.

● Students are reading independently.

● Teacher is differentiating instruction by pulling students for conferencing/ small group instruction.

Share

End of workshop - Whole Group Share

Options:
- Have students share a word they were struggling with and how they blended letter sounds to make the word.

- Praise behaviors that were observed during students’ independent reading.

Sample talk: “Suzie, I really loved that when you came to a word that you were struggling with, you took the time to sound it out instead of skipping it. I know you were really
trying to applying the strategy of sounding out unknown words. Nice job, Suzie!!”

- Review previously taught strategies and skills.

Sample talk: “ You all did such a great job blending the sounds of unknown words today. I want to remind all of you that good readers continue to practice all of the skills and strategies that they have learned such as....”

Student Assessment/CFU's: Turn and Talk, Thumbs Up/Down

Materials: Smart TV, Projection of Wonders story "Can I Pat It?", Post-It Notes

21st Century Themes and Skills: Communication

Differentiation/Modifications: Visual Display, Turn and Talk, Student Choice during Independent Reading

Integration of Technology: Smart TV, Wonders story online

LA.RF.1.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.