



## First Grade Curriculum



**In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Beneficent**

Dear Parents,

As'Salaamu `Alaykum and welcome to Al Manara Academy First Grade,

At Al Manara our goal is to establish and maintain a school environment where the social culture and behavioral supports needed to be an effective learning environment are in place for all students.

It is the school's mission to uphold the Islamic concept of ilm that integrates the pursuit of knowledge with Islamic values. Al Manara makes the excellence of learning within the Islamic heritage, the foundation of the rigorous academic program that is intended to serve the needs of the modern world without sacrificing moral and spiritual values. Therefore, we encourage you to work with your child regularly by discussing what happened in school and reviewing the work that your child brings home. We also welcome your calls or visits to the classroom, by making an appointment, to discuss with the teacher any concerns you may have.

All of this fits together like a jig-saw puzzle. The outcome of your child's education is the complete puzzle, the big picture, and the result of the learning. The various puzzle pieces are necessary for the successful completion of the puzzle. Through various lessons in a variety of content areas, teachers assist their students in putting all the pieces of the puzzle in place.

With this in mind, this document is intended to give you some of the common characteristics of first grade children, as well as the skills used to promote growth and success during the current year. We have also listed specific learning objectives for each subject area in the curriculum. By working with your child in these areas, you can help increase learning as well as show your interest and involvement in their school experience.

Muslim parents should remember that Allah (SWT) will hold them responsible on the Day of Judgment if they neglect to educate their children about Islam and provide them with the general knowledge that will enable them to make a decent living. The success of your child during this school year is our primary goal and we need your help, your donations, your understanding, and your prayers.



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

At Al Manara continued progress and growth of the individual is the aim of education, this includes deen and the academic education. This education should be intellectual in its direction, individualized in its approach, demanding in its efforts, character building in its nature, humane in its treatment, and scientific in its method.

The staff at Al Manara understands full well the responsibility entrusted to us by our complex society, are dedicated to these goals.

1. To develop in each of our pupils the recognition of the personal dignity of man
2. To cultivate intellectual curiosity in each pupil
3. To equip each pupil to live a responsible and profitable life as a citizen of the community, nation, and world
4. To aid each pupil in acquiring and developing desirable traits of character and a wholesome, well-integrated personality.
5. To help each pupil realize his own potentials and help him adjust to everyday problems both intellectual and social
6. To teach the fundamental skills, and develop effective study and work habits

To fulfill these goals, the staff at Al Manara must:

- Recognize the individuality of each student and develop this through guidance and encouragement
- Organize and operate the program of education to develop the total individual
- Instill in each student an appreciation for and a loyalty to his country
- Offer a complete, continuous program of education

At Al Manara the teaching philosophy is very child-centric. This principle of education should direct our efforts toward a practical as well as theoretical philosophy. Acceptance of this philosophy is the first step. Implementation must follow as well as constant evaluation and revision. Cooperation of parents, teachers, and administrators is essential in establishing and maintaining high educational standards for our school.



## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

In accordance with the philosophy, principles, goals, and objectives of the school, a successful student as one who:

### **Academically,**

- is developing the fundamental skills, knowledge, and
- dispositions outlined in the curriculum
- is acquiring effective study and work habits
- is responding to an academic environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, individual responsibility, and mutual respect

### **Socially,**

- is exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and family living
- is exhibiting physical and emotional well-being and a sense of personal growth
- is demonstrating respect for humanity and the dignity of others

### **Personally,**

- is attending classes, participating in class activities and doing the required work
- is displaying acceptable standards of behavior
- is exerting desirable effort to learn



## **DEVELOPMENT OF A FIRST GRADE CHILD**

It is important to remember that each child is unique and that a wide range of individual differences will appear with any group of children. Although there is diversity, there is also consistency. A child's development is organized and directed. Each child needs to go through certain patterns on his way to adulthood. Age characteristics are rough guidelines to help us know what may be expected from the First Grade children and what behaviors are typical for their age.

The first grader;

- ✓ Is moderately active
- ✓ May be dissatisfied or sulks
- ✓ Complains, is defensive, blames
- ✓ Is sometimes preoccupied
- ✓ Is working toward listening
- ✓ Is very sensitive to attitudes of others
- ✓ Plays in loosely organized groups
- ✓ Needs supervision
- ✓ Has strong loyalties of short duration
- ✓ Is not a good loser
- ✓ Likes secrets
- ✓ Prefers same gender friends
- ✓ Gets permanent front teeth
- ✓ Is developing coordination
- ✓ Practices motor skills
- ✓ Is establishing hand-eye coordination
- ✓ Is developing concept of time
- ✓ Enjoys puzzles and simple jokes



## **SUBJECTS TAUGHT BY HOMEROOM TEACHERS**

### **HEALTH**

---

- ✓ Safety rules at home, school and play a Parts of the body
- ✓ Food and how the body uses it
- ✓ Medicines, their usefulness and dangers
- ✓ Feelings and healthful ways to express them
- ✓ Drugs, legal, illegal, and how to say "no"
- ✓ Getting sick and staying well
- ✓ Lungs and breathing
- ✓ Exercise and how it builds muscles

### **MATHEMATICS**

---

- ✓ Processes: joining and separating, comparing and ordering, sorting (length, weight, capacity, describing and classifying)
- ✓ Units of measurement (nonstandard and standard units)
- ✓ Two-and three-dimensional shapes
- ✓ Collection, organization, interpretation of information
- ✓ Use information from a graph
- ✓ Practice math concepts with the aid of the computer

### **READING/LANGUAGE ARTS**

---

- ✓ Review readiness skills: auditory discrimination, follow oral directions, match pictures, objects and letters, discriminate basic shapes, recognize rhyming words
- ✓ Expand oral language, recognize upper and lower case letters, establish left to right directionality
- ✓ Identify and use basic principles of phonics in decoding and spelling: initial and final consonant sounds, two letter consonant blends, vowel blends, vowels-short and long
- ✓ Enlarge basic sight vocabulary of high frequency words
- ✓ Use context as a way to determine meaning of an unknown word



- ✓ Supply synonyms and antonyms for commonly used words
- ✓ Supply the antecedent of a personal pronoun
- ✓ Recall from passage or story such information as setting, characters, sequence of events and narrator
- ✓ Distinguish fact from fantasy and justify your response
- ✓ Identify and explain cause-effect relationships
- ✓ State the main idea of a passage
- ✓ Predict the outcome of a story
- ✓ Show knowledge of capitalization and punctuation
- ✓ Use book parts and reference sources such as dictionaries to obtain information
- ✓ Read and follow two-step directions
- ✓ Select and read a variety of materials independently
- ✓ Be about to write a complete sentence and a simple story
- ✓ Be able to use inventive spelling
- ✓ Be exposed to a variety of quality literature

## **SCIENCE**

---

- ✓ Identify plant parts
- ✓ Observe seed germination and identify requirements for seed growth
- ✓ Recognize the characteristics and habitats of animals
- ✓ Observe and record weather and recognize changes in seasons
- ✓ Explain the importance of caring for the earth
- ✓ Identify rock samples and explain erosion
- ✓ Identify properties of a magnet
- ✓ Observe states of matter
- ✓ Recognize that good health habits promote a healthy body

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

---

- ✓ Understand the structure and function of the family
- ✓ Identify the needs and wants of a family
- ✓ Identify places in the neighborhood, country, and world
- ✓ Understand Islamic and non Islamic holidays and traditions
- ✓ Recognize special Americans



- ✓ Identify some Muslim countries

## **ART**

---

- ✓ Use a variety of processes to connect and combine materials
- ✓ Identify and use vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines
- ✓ Experiment with shades and tints
- ✓ Define and use appropriate art vocabulary
- ✓ Examine and respond to works of art

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

---

- ✓ Demonstrate a basic understanding of physical fitness
- ✓ Demonstrate strength, endurance, agility, flexibility and speed
- ✓ Demonstrate body movement from place to place in all directions
- ✓ Demonstrate movement of the body or body parts while maintaining a stationary position
- ✓ Demonstrate basic rhythmic movements
- ✓ Participate in movement exploration activities
- ✓ Participate in lead up sports activity skills
- ✓ Demonstrate personal social skills
- ✓ Demonstrate group behavior skills
- ✓ Demonstrate gymnastics: safety, tumbling, stunts, apparatus

## **LIBRARY MEDIA**

---

- ✓ Use the table of contents to locate particular information
- ✓ Identify information on a title page: title, author, illustrator
- ✓ Recognize fiction and nonfiction books
- ✓ Use dictionaries and signs to obtain information
- ✓ Follow oral directions
- ✓ Follow multi-step directions in sequence



## **COMPUTER**

---

- ✓ Use keyboard
- ✓ Identify alphabetic keys
- ✓ Identify numeric keys
- ✓ Use software
- ✓ Perform simple word processing
- ✓ Develop graphics
- ✓ Identify hardware

## **MUSIC (Nasheed)**

---

- ✓ Sing Islamic songs (Nasheed) in Arabic and English
- ✓ Long/short sounds and silences
- ✓ Rhythm & beat
- ✓ Sounds: high and low



## **SUBJECTS TAUGHT BY SPECIALIZED TEACHERS**

### **DEEN (Islamic Studies)**

---

- ✓ Belief in the oneness of Allah (SWT)
- ✓ Learn how to pray and make wudu
- ✓ Learn the Seerah of some Prophets
- ✓ Know that Allah created everything: food, humans, and living things
- ✓ Learn more about the faith of a Muslim
- ✓ Learn about the Five Pillars of Islam
- ✓ Learn about cleanliness from an Islamic point of view
- ✓ Learn that good manners are part of our faith
- ✓ Learn about Isra and Miraj (night journey)

### **ARABIC**

---

- ✓ Learn the shapes of the letters in the beginning, middle, and the end
- ✓ Arabic vowels
- ✓ Arabic spelling
- ✓ Meaning of the words
- ✓ Coloring and learning Arabic
- ✓ Watching some Arabic cartoons

### **ASSEMBLY**

---

- ✓ Du'aa (Supplication): Learn the meaning and memorize some of the Du'aas for different occasions
- ✓ Learn the importance of remembering Allah (SWT) an the time
- ✓ Story: learn more about the Seerah (life story) of the Prophets and the companions
- ✓ Learn to take the companions of the Prophet (saas) as leaders and examples in our lives
- ✓ Hadith: Memorize the Hadith of the Prophet (saas)
- ✓ Learn more about our belief and worshipping Allah (SWT)
- ✓ Quiz: test the Islamic knowledge learned
- ✓ General: help the students become good practicing Muslims



## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING (as needed)**

---

- ✓ Understanding and accepting myself
- ✓ Making decisions
- ✓ Understanding and getting along with others
- ✓ Learning about family relationships and responsibilities
- ✓ Working with others
- ✓ Exploring interests
- ✓ Becoming a responsible student



## **DOMAINS IN EDUCATION**

### ***A. AFFECTIVE DOMAIN***

Many students experience asynchronous, that is, uneven, development in intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth. Students must learn how to best use their cognitive powers to make sense of their emotional needs.

- Social Cooperation
- Self Realization
- Self Esteem

### ***B. COGNITIVE DOMAIN***

#### **Creative Thinking**

"Without knowledge, imagination cannot be productive. Without imagination, abundant knowledge cannot help us live in a world of change. And without the ability to synthesize, evaluate, and develop our ideas, we achieve no effective creativity." Parnes, Noller, Biondi, *Guide to Creative Action*, page 15, Charles Scribner's Sons, NY, 1977.

- Brainstorming
- Listening/Visual
- Analogies
- Ambiguity
- Elaboration
- Originality
- Curiosity
- Sensitivity/Aesthetics
- Creative Problem-Solving

#### **Critical Thinking**

Critical thinking is a composite of attitudes, knowledge and skills that facilitate an in depth, reflective research for valid conclusions which solve problems, resolve doubts, and enable one to choose among conflicting doctrines and/or policy statements.

- Brainstorming
- Literature



## **Logic**

Students prepare for logical thinking by using simple systems based on patterns and relationships and by understanding the role of assumptions, generalizations, and actual facts when reaching a valid conclusion. Evidence is considered in a systematic way and is often charted on a grid to obtain accurate conclusions.

- Indications of Patterns
- Isolation of facts
- Structure of Logic
- Logic Grid
- Visual Perceptions
- Analogies
- Language

## **Methods of Research**

Technological skills are infused and applied in this area.

- Historical
- Descriptive
- Case & Field Study
- Correlation
- True Experimental

## **Research Locational Skills**

These skills are necessary for students to work independently, to locate material for valid research and to enable them to explore areas of interest in the future.

- Call Numbers
- Use of Catalogue
- Reference Work Components



## **FIRST GRADE SKILLS**

Skills developed by students in first grade are specified here.

- ✓ Classifying
- ✓ Communicating
- ✓ Critical Thinking
- ✓ Estimating Information
- ✓ Identifying
- ✓ Inferring
- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Measuring
- ✓ Moving
- ✓ Predicting
- ✓ Processing
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Referencing
- ✓ Socializing
- ✓ Speaking
- ✓ Studying
- ✓ Visualizing
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Symbolizing

## **FIRST GRADE DISPOSITIONS**

Student behaviors and attitudes strived for in the classroom are in line with the Islamic teaching. These dispositions, for each subject, fall under the following three categories:

- ✓ Appreciating
- ✓ Caring
- ✓ Enjoying