

## **BHCS Grade 1 Curriculum**

### **Math-**

BHCS uses Math in Focus for our K-8 math instruction. Math in Focus is a version of Singapore Math which builds mathematical skills through hands-on and visual approaches. The first trimester of first grade focuses on addition and subtraction through 10. This sets students up to be successful in more advanced addition and subtraction throughout the remainder of the year. Before entering second grade, students will have learned to add and subtract up to 100. In addition to the primary focus of adding and subtracting, first graders explore 2D and 3D shapes, time and the calendar, measurement (including length and weight), as well as positional words and phrases.

### **Spelling-**

Spelling Connections is the curriculum used through our school for spelling instruction. This curriculum works to tie in weekly spelling words into their knowledge of phonics, reading and writing to support mastery of the words and their spelling patterns. First graders begin spelling by focusing on short vowels in two and three letter words then move into common word endings such as -ed, -ing, and -s. To end the year students begin to learn about long vowels and some of the different ways they are spelled within words.

### **Reading-**

The Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Instruction (LLI) is utilized to build student's reading skills. This reading system focuses on strong phonological awareness and phonics skills in every reading level to help build fluency and in turn comprehension. Students typically begin the year reading at a level C and will end the year reading at a level I. Reading and phonics instruction relies heavily on differentiation as students do not all grow in their abilities at the same rate, nor should they be expected to. The LLI system allows teachers to target specific areas of growth for each student and work in small groups to meet the needs of all students. The LLI kit works by spiraling the difficulty level of books students use daily, working through books that are easier to introduce new reading skills and books that gain difficulty to practice those new skills.

### **Writing-**

First grade students focus on three major types of writing throughout the year: narrative, informational and opinion. The first trimester is spent learning about the mechanics of writing and what makes a good writer. During this unit students learn about spaces, periods, penmanship, creating sentences and staying on topic. As the year progresses they learn about the different types of writing and practice creating pieces to fit the genre.

## **Theme-**

First grade focuses on an abundance of different social studies and science topics throughout the year during Theme time. First grade students begin the year focusing on life cycles of monarch butterflies, apples and pumpkins then transition into learning about the different parts of a plant. Students will spend the remainder of the school year studying topics such as geography where they learn about where they are on the map and holiday traditions around the world, animal life cycles, traits and adaptations, birds, American symbols and more! Theme time is a great way to incorporate writing and research into their everyday instruction. During theme time students complete two informational research projects one about species of penguins and another about a bird of their choice.