

Mystic Valley Regional Charter School

First Grade Curriculum Matrix- draft

	Reading - Direct Instruction	Mathematics - Saxon	Science - Core Knowledge	History - Core Knowledge
August/ September	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Sequencing If-Then Statements Classification Logic Story Grammar</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counting – reading and writing numbers 2) Addition facts to 18 3) Subtraction facts to 18 4) Problem solving 5) Recognizing and repeating patterns 6) Money – identification and counting 7) Geometric figures 8) Measurement – seasons, calendar 9) Graphing - Pictographs, Bar Graphs, Sorting objects 	<p>Human Body – Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Skeleton • Digestive System • Respiratory System • Lungs 	<p>Our World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven Continents • Cardinal Directions • Hemispheres • World Geography
October	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Sequencing If-Then Statements Classification Logic Story Grammar</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counting – reading and writing numbers 2) Addition facts to 18 3) Subtraction facts to 18 4) Problem solving 5) Recognizing and repeating patterns 6) Money – identification and counting 7) Geometric figures 8) Measurement – seasons, calendar 9) Graphing - Pictographs, Bar Graphs, Sorting objects 	<p>Human Body – Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senses • Food Pyramid • Germs 	<p>Ancient Civilizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice Age • Woolly Mammoths • Cave Dwellers • Mayans, Incas, Aztecs
November	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Sequencing If-Then Statements Classification Logic</p>	<p><i>Continue previous skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Odd and even numbers 2) Fractional parts of whole 3) Place value to 1,000 4) Geometry – solving spatial problems 5) Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling time 	<p>Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid, liquid, gas • How solids behave in water • Air • Matter changes form 	<p>Colonial Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 7 continents • Jamestown • Massachusetts Bay Colony • African- American servants

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	Story Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimating and comparing lengths, capacity, weight Measure with non-standard and standard units 6) Graphing - Pictographs, Bar Graphs, Sorting objects		
December	Decoding Comprehension Spelling Following and Giving Directions Sequencing If-Then Statements Classification Logic Story Grammar Writing	<i>Continue previous skills</i> 1) Odd and even numbers 2) Fractional parts of whole 3) Place value to 1,000 4) Geometry – solving spatial problems 5) Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling time Estimating and comparing lengths, capacity, weight Measure with non-standard and standard units 6) Graphing - Pictographs, Bar Graphs, Sorting objects	Electricity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static Electricity Circuits Conductors/Insulators 	World Religions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noah's Arc Judaism Symbols Islam Christianity Hinduism Buddhism
January	Decoding Comprehension Spelling Following and Giving Directions Sequencing If-Then Statements Classification Logic Story Grammar Writing	<i>Continue previous skills</i> 1) Odd and even numbers 2) Fractional parts of whole 3) Place value to 1,000 4) Geometry – solving spatial problems 5) Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling time Estimating and comparing lengths, capacity, weight Measure with non-standard and standard units 6) Graphing - Pictographs, Bar Graphs, Sorting objects	Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing and Classifying Standard Units of Measurement Thermometers and Temperature 	American Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boston Tea Party Paul Revere Redcoats and Minutemen Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson
February	Decoding	<i>Continue previous skills</i>	Solar System	American Revolution (con't)

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	<p>Comprehension Spelling Vocabulary Literal Comprehension Inferential Comprehension Literary and Study Skills</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Classification, Clues, Deductions Writing Story Grammar</p>	<p>1) Estimation 2) Commutative and associative properties 3) Masters addition and subtraction facts to 18 4) Regrouping 5) Congruent shapes 6) Measures and draws using customary units 7) Graphing – data collection, tallies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases of the Moon • North Star • Big Dipper • Planets • Layers of the Earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Franklin • Patriots: Deborah Simpson and Phyllis Wheatley • George Washington • Democracy/Voting • Capital CityS
March	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling Vocabulary Literal Comprehension Inferential Comprehension Literary and Study Skills</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Classification, Clues, Deductions Writing Story Grammar</p>	<p><i>Continue previous skills</i></p> <p>1) Estimation 2) Commutative and associative properties 3) Masters addition and subtraction facts to 18 4) Regrouping 5) Congruent shapes 6) Measures and draws using customary units 7) Graphing – data collection, tallies</p>	<p>Animal Habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest • Desert • Underground • Prairie 	<p>American Civilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty Bell • Pioneers • Daniel Boone • Wilderness Road • Lewis and Clark
April	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling Vocabulary Literal Comprehension Inferential Comprehension Literary Skills Study Skills</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Classification, Clues, Deductions Writing Story Grammar Time, Rate, Distance</p>	<p><i>Continue previous skills</i></p> <p>1) Dozen, half dozen 2) Divides into equal parts 3) Subtracts 2 digit numbers 4) Fractional parts of a set 5) Uses comparison symbols <,>, 6) 3 dimensional geometric shapes 7) Reads thermometer 8) Measurement with customary and metric units 9) Writes observations 10) Predicts probability 11) Conducts probability experiments</p>	<p>Oceans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean Floor • Ocean Currents • Ocean Life • Food Chains 	<p>Ancient Civilizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nile River • Pharaoh • King Tut • Pyramids

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May	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling Vocabulary Literal Comprehension Inferential Comprehension Literary Skills Study Skills</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Classification, Clues, Deductions Writing Story Grammar Time, Rate, Distance</p>	<p><i>Continue previous skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dozen, half dozen 2) Divides into equal parts 3) Subtracts 2 digit numbers 4) Fractional parts of a set 5) Uses comparison symbols <, >, = 6) 3 dimensional geometric shapes 7) Reads thermometer 8) Measurement with customary and metric units 9) Writes observations 10) Predicts probability 11) Conducts probability experiments 	<p>Animals Eat/Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat Eaters • Plant Eaters • Animal Teeth • Rachel Carson • Recycle 	<p>Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location/Geography • Mexican Independence Day • Clothing <p>Mexican Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinatas • Mexican Hat Dance • Mexican Food • Traditions
June	<p>Decoding Comprehension Spelling Vocabulary Literal Comprehension Inferential Comprehension Literary Skills Study Skills</p> <p>Following and Giving Directions Classification, Clues, Deductions Writing Story Grammar Time, Rate, Distance</p>	<p><i>Continue previous skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dozen, half dozen 2) Divides into equal parts 3) Subtracts 2 digit numbers 4) Fractional parts of a set 5) Uses comparison symbols <, >, = 6) 3 dimensional geometric shapes 7) Reads thermometer 8) Measurement with customary and metric units 9) Writes observations 10) Predicts probability 11) Conducts probability experiments 	<p>Dinosaurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinosaur snouts • Characteristics • Dinosaur Discovery • Compare and Contrast 	<p>Mesozoic Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triassic • Jurassic • Cretaceous <p>Pangea</p> <p>Cenozoic</p>

Reading— Reading instruction takes place in small groups based on individual student skill. Placement tests are used at the beginning of the year to accurately assign students to groups. As a result, not all students in First grade follow the same course of study at the same pace. After initial placement tests, students are evaluated daily during reading lessons. Every 10 lessons, students complete a mastery test to determine what skills or concepts need continued practice. Strong decoding skills are combined with comprehension strategies to enable students to understand what they read and make stories come alive. The goal is for all students to be confident, strategic, independent readers. The Language program complements reading instruction. Students learn words, concepts, and statements important to both oral and written language comprehension. The program emphasizes language as a means of describing the world and as a tool for thinking and solving problems.

Mathematics — The math program provides students with a carefully sequenced development of concepts and time to practice skills in subsequent lessons. Topics are introduced and students are given time to practice, review and build upon these concepts as they learn new ones. Due to the spiraling nature of the curriculum, most of the skills and standards are addressed throughout the year. Each lesson consists of a morning meeting in which students practice skills related to time, weather, counting, patterning, graphing, money and problem solving. Later in the day, the math lesson introduces a new concept and allows children time to practice and review previous skills. Students are also expected to complete daily guided practice sheets at home.

History and Geography— In the First grade, the goal of the History and Geography curriculum is to expand the student's knowledge of their world. This will include looking at ancient civilizations, and past events that helped shape the world as we know it today. Students will learn about the variety of cultures and religions that exist in the world and will examine key events and cultural symbols of the United States. Within the area of Geography, students will continue to build on their spatial understanding and their geographic vocabulary.

Science— The Science curriculum in the First grade will explore a variety of topics in Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science. Instruction will focus on hands-on experiences and observation. Students will conduct experiments and read literature that will broaden their understanding of scientific concepts.

Character Education— The character education program at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School is literature based. Students listen to, read and discuss literature and how the stories exemplify the virtue of the month. The goal is to cultivate character through the promotion of basic moral, civic and intellectual virtues.¹

Music and Visual Arts— Music and the arts are an integral part of the curriculum focusing on creativity and active participation. Instruction is non-competitive and provides significant opportunities to sing, dance, listen to music, play act, listen to and read poetry, draw, paint, and create. In addition, children are also exposed to great pieces of art and music.

¹ Klee, Mary Beth; Core Virtues 2000