Responsive Classroom

1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.

2. How children learn is as important as what they learn: Process and content go hand in hand.

3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.

4. To be successful academically and socially, children need a set of social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control (CARES).

5. Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally, and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.

6. Knowing the families of the children we teach and working with them as partners is essential to children’s education.

7. How the adults at school work together is as important as their individual competence: Lasting change begins with the adult community.
Emotions matter.

RULER is an acronym that stands for Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating emotions.

RULER is supported by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

We will be using the Feeling Words Curriculum from RULER to expand upon our understanding of feeling words and what they mean.

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Clear expectations of behavior are set forth in the fall. 1W has created rules to support The Responsive Classroom and Feeling Words Curriculum.

In this classroom students and teachers will listen to each other, work together, use kind words, help each other, and share.

In this classroom, students and teachers want to feel excited, happy, kind, and special.

1W has published a classroom charter to recognize these rules and feelings.
In first grade students learn that they are spellers, readers, and writers. We use the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in phonics to teach students how to apply learned spelling rules to their every day reading and writing. The Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Phonics:

- Taps into kids’ skills and energy for tackling the fabulous challenge of learning to read and write.
- Introduces spelling concepts and strategies in a way that keeps pace with students’ reading and writing helping them to understand when, how, and why they can use phonics to read and write.
- Offers delightfully fun and engaging storylines, classroom mascots, songs, chants, rhymes, and games to help students fall head over heels in love with phonics and to create a joyous community of learners.
- Aligns with reading and writing workshops
Reading and writing are an integral part of the day. We use a comprehensive writing program developed by Lucy Calkins.

Our writing process curriculum encourages students to write in a variety of genres such as narrative, opinion, and informative.

First grade writers grow along a developmental continuum, from simple one-word labels to writing detailed sentences and imaginative stories.

“Children deserve to write for real, to write the kinds of texts that they see in the world—nonfiction chapter books, persuasive letters, stories, lab reports, reviews, poems—and to write for an audience of readers.”

—Lucy Calkins
Math in Focus

Math in Focus is the name of our first grade math curriculum.

Math in Focus is aligned to the United States Common Core, meeting the specific needs for each student.

Math in Focus exposes children to mathematical concepts through activities, explorations, practice, and meaningful discussion. Number sense, basic facts, and computation is an important foundation across grades. Students learn to explain their understanding by participating in lessons, hands on activities, and problem solving.

This year students will:

Extend counting sequences to 120
Add and subtract within 20
Learn about place value
Measure length
Tell and write time
Reason with 2D and 3D shapes
We use the Leveled Literacy program by Fountas & Pinnell to support our first grade readers.

During Leveled Literacy, students participate in small, guided reading groups.

Each Leveled Literacy lesson provides students with:

• A combination of reading, writing, and word study;
• Explicit teaching for fluent and phrased reading; also
• Close reading to deepen and expand comprehension.
Year Long Theme

Throughout this school year our science and social studies curriculum will be connected to our central theme: farms and farming in our community.

First graders will work closely with community organizations such as Island Grown Schools, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Polly Hill, Felix Neck, and local farmers.

In science, students will use their inherent curiosities to carry out investigations, analyze data, and formulate answers to questions. We will learn about seasonal changes, basic engineering, and living things.

In social studies, students will strengthen their identity as community members. We will learn about historical events, figures, symbols, and holidays.