**INSTRUCTOR & COURSE INFORMATION:**
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Planning Time: 8:30-9:00 daily
Phone Number: 301-390-0239

**Course Description:**
This course is designed to prepare all students to be on track for college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school. All lessons are aligned to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts. The standards establish guidelines for English Language Arts teachers to ensure students at each grade level are taught the necessary skills to become critical readers and writers.

In this course, students will read a variety of texts including stories, literature, and informational texts that provide facts and background knowledge on topics related to science and social studies. They will be asked questions that require them to refer back to what they have read and support their answers with reasoning and evidence from the text. Students will also be required to write for a variety of purposes such as narratives, opinion and explanatory information pieces. They will also engage in collaborative conversations with peers and demonstrate a command of formal English both in writing and speaking. These expectations will develop the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills every student needs to be a literate person who is prepared for success in the 21st century.

Each student is expected to read at least 20 minutes daily.

**GOALS:**
Students will:
- Read a balance of informational and literary texts.
- Read complex text from a variety of topics such as science and social studies.
- Read text that will increase on complexity.
- Gather and cite text evidence to engage in rich and rigorous conversations and written responses about text.
- Write using multiple sources to state an opinion and create an organizational structure that supports the writer’s purpose, write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences.
- Use grammar and conventions, writing strategies, and all aspects of foundational academic vocabulary skills effectively when writing and speaking.
- Demonstrate and understanding of foundational skills including print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency.
Overview: The goal of grading and reporting is to provide the students with feedback that reflects their progress toward the mastery of the indicators and objectives found in the Reading Curriculum Framework Progress Guide.

Teachers will determine the range of points for each assignment and place the assignment in SchoolMax; SchoolMax will then convert the points to a percentage and then the percentage will be converted to a grade of a PR, IP, or ND.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Brief Description Reading</th>
<th>Brief Description Oral/Written Communication</th>
<th>Grade Percentage Per Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Class Work       | This includes work completed in the classroom setting. Class work can include, but is not limited to:  
▪ Group Participation Phonemic Awareness  
▪ Phonics  
▪ Vocabulary  
▪ Comprehension assignments | This includes work completed in the classroom setting. Class work can include, but is not limited to:  
▪ Group Participation Writing process  
▪ Spelling (First Grade)  
▪ Completion of classroom assignments | 55% |
| Note:            | Graded assignments must reflect each of the above topics                                  |                                                                                                             |                             |
| Homework         | This includes all work completed outside the classroom to be graded on its completion and student’s preparation for class (materials, supplies, etc.) Assignments can include, but are not limited to:  
▪ Reading Logs  
▪ Written assignments | This includes all work completed outside the classroom to be graded on its completion and student’s preparation for class (materials, supplies, etc.) Assignments can include, but are not limited to:  
▪ Spelling assignments (First grade)  
▪ Writing assignments | 5% |
| Assessments      | This category encompasses both the traditional (exams and quizzes) and alternative methods of assessing student learning with the goal of mastery (presentation, projects, portfolios, completion of graphic organizers, anecdotal notes of teacher observations, teacher conferences, student written responses). Assessment can include, but are not limited to:  
▪ Literacy assessments  
▪ Teacher created assessment | This category encompasses both the traditional (exams and quizzes) and alternative methods of assessing student learning with goal of mastery (presentations, projects, portfolios). Assessments can include, but are not limited to:  
▪ Grammar assignments  
▪ Content of writing assignments  
▪ Spelling Test (First grade)  
▪ Published Writing | 40% |
## Kindergarten

### Quarter 1: September 4th-November 2nd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Theme</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
<th>Phonics Skills and High Frequency Words</th>
<th>Focus Reading Strategies and Skills</th>
<th>Writer’s Workshop</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start Smart</strong></td>
<td>How is everyone special?</td>
<td>Letters A-Z</td>
<td>Listening Comprehension</td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (W.K.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who is in your family?</td>
<td>Rhyming</td>
<td>School Rituals and Routines</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing: Running records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What can you do?</td>
<td>I, can</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>County-wide: Early Literacy Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Take a New Step</strong></td>
<td>How can we get along with new friends?</td>
<td>Initial consonants: m, s</td>
<td>Ask and Answer Questions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Fundamentals How Writer’s Work: Launching Writer’s Workshop (W.K.1, W.K.2, W.K.3, W.K.5, W.K.7, W.K.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can we learn when we try new things?</td>
<td>How do baby animals move?</td>
<td>Short vowel sound: /a/</td>
<td>Identify Key Details (RL.K.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How can your senses help you learn?</td>
<td>the, we, see</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Quarter 2: November 5th-January 25th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Theme</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
<th>Phonics Skills and High Frequency Words</th>
<th>Focus Reading Strategies and Skills</th>
<th>Writer’s Workshop</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you find out when you explore?</td>
<td>What shapes do you see around you?</td>
<td>a, play, like, at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing: Running records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>County-wide: Early Literacy Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Going Places</strong></td>
<td>What rules do we follow in different places?</td>
<td>n, k</td>
<td>Visualize Make Connections Retelling Key Details (RL.K.2) Character, Setting, Events (RL.K.3) Text Features</td>
<td>Writing Fundamentals List and Label Unit of Study (W.K.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you learn by going different places?</td>
<td>What are the different sounds we hear?</td>
<td>short vowel /l/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What places do you go during the week?</td>
<td>to, in, and, it, go, said</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Around the Neighborhood</strong></td>
<td>What do people use to do their jobs?</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>Ask and Answer Questions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you know about the people and places in your neighborhood?</td>
<td>Who are your neighbors?</td>
<td>short vowel sound: /o/</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>you, do, loo, too</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PGCPS Elementary Reading/English Language Arts Office  
2019-2020 Elementary RELA Kindergarten Syllabus
## Quarter 3: January 28th-March 28th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Theme</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
<th>Phonics Skills and High Frequency Words</th>
<th>Focus Reading Strategies and Skills</th>
<th>Writer’s Workshop</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Wonders of Nature</td>
<td>How does your garden grow? How do living things change as they grow What kinds of things grow on a farm?</td>
<td>h, f, r short vowel /a/, /i/, /o/, /e/ my, has, are, he, with</td>
<td>Rereading Make Connections Character, Setting, Events (RL.K.3) Literary Element: Rhyme and Repetition Main Idea/Key Details (RI.K.2) Text Features</td>
<td>Writing Fundamentals FUNctional Writing Unit of Study (W.K.2)</td>
<td>Ongoing: Running records County-wide: Early Literacy Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Let’s Explore</td>
<td>How are the seasons different? What happens in different kinds of weather?</td>
<td>b, l, ck (/k/) is, little, will, she, was</td>
<td>Visualize Make Connections Retelling Key Details (RL.K.1) Text Features</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 The Animal Kingdom</td>
<td>How are some animals alike and how are they different? How do you take care of different kinds of pets? Where do animals live?</td>
<td>g, w, v, x short vowel /u/ for, have, of, they, want, where</td>
<td>Rereading Make Connections Make, confirm, and revise predictions Compare and Contrast Texts (RL.K.3) Plot: Problem and Solution (RL.K.3) Plot: Cause and Effect (RL.K.3) Text Features Literary Element: Alliteration</td>
<td>Writing Fundamentals FUNctional Writing Unit of Study (W.K.2) Donald Crews Author Study (W.K.1, W.K.2, W.K.3, W.K.5, W.K.7, W.K.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Quarter 4: March 29th-June 20th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit/Theme</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
<th>Phonics Skills and High Frequency Words</th>
<th>Focus Reading Strategies and Skills</th>
<th>Writer’s Workshop</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 From Here to There</td>
<td>What can help you go from here to there? What do you know about our country</td>
<td>j, qu (/kw/), y, z here, me, this, what</td>
<td>Rereading Make, Confirm, and Revise prediction Character, Setting, Events (RL.K.3) Main Topic/Key Details (RI.K.2) Text Features</td>
<td>Writing Fundamentals Donald Crews Author Study (W.K.1, W.K.2, W.K.3, W.K.5, W.K.7, W.K.8)</td>
<td>Ongoing: Running records County-wide: Early Literacy Assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) describe varieties of expertise that ELA educators at all levels should seek to develop in their students. Below are recommended suggestions of what parents can do to support their child in developing the critical skills to becoming college and career-ready.

1. **Read as much non-fiction as fiction.**
   - Encourage your child to read more non-fiction text independently.
   - Promote independent reading for at least 30 minutes a day (25 books per year).
   - Read non-fiction texts aloud or with your child.
   - Initiate discussions about the details of the non-fiction text.

2. **Learn about the world by reading.**
   - Provide opportunities for your child to build knowledge through reading about topics of interest.
   - Provide opportunities for students to explore careers across all fields.
   - Initiate discussion about these topics.

3. **Read more challenging materials closely.**
   - Encourage your child to read more challenging texts.
   - Encourage your child to reread for understanding.
   - Know your child’s reading level and provide a balance of challenging and just right text.
   - Encourage your child to keep trying even when the text gets harder.

4. **Discuss reading using evidence.**
   - Initiate discussions about text.
   - Require your child to support their claims and disagreements with evidence.
   - Encourage students to question and challenge information they read.
   - Read the same book and discuss by citing evidence from the text.
   - Encourage students to use supportive evidence as they write about their thinking.

5. **Write non-fiction using evidence.**
   - Encourage your child to write in journal, letters, reading responses, notes, use of Blogs or Wikis for writing, creative writing of stories/plays/lyrics/poems; research projects about topics of interest.
   - Explore careers that require writing skills such as journalism, script writing, advertising, book or movie critics, authors, sports magazine writers, lawyers, televisions, etc.
   - Compare and contrast writings on the same topic written by a variety of authors.

6. **Increase academic vocabulary.**
   - Read non-fiction text about science, social studies and other topics.
   - Discuss the meaning of difficult vocabulary words and how they are used in the text.
   - Help increase your child’s spoken and written academic vocabulary through word games, discussions, media, videos, student-made vocabulary notebooks, online word searches, etc.