

What Is Balanced Literacy?

We will use a **Balanced Literacy** approach in first grade. **Balanced Literacy** includes; Shared reading, Guided reading, Self-Selected Reading, Letter and Word Work, Writer's Workshop, and Read Alouds. **Shared Reading** involves reading together big books, poems, or stories from the reading series while emphasizing the skills of a good reader in context. During **Guided Reading** children will participate in reading books and practicing reading skill on their level in small groups. **Self-Selected Reading** allows students to choose books at their particular reading level and practice the skills that are being taught. **Letter and Word Work** is when we learn the phonological structure of words and spelling. **Writer's Workshop** is where the children learn to create and write their own stories. Students will have the opportunity to listen to a story for enjoyment while the teacher models good reading behaviors during Read **Alouds**.

After about a month students will participate in literacy centers in order to provide them with the opportunity to learn and practice skills independently using a hands-on approach.

Using a balance reading program allows the teacher to provide each child with reading instruction focused on his/her particular level and appeals to a variety of learning styles.