



# Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.  
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>School Year</b>	2025-2026
<b>Subject</b>	English Language Arts
<b>Grade Level</b>	Grade 1
<b>Teacher</b>	Elaine de Bruyn
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:edebruyn@dishs.tp.edu.tw">edebruyn@dishs.tp.edu.tw</a>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Grade 1 Language Arts focuses on the foundation of literacy. The course is divided into a variety of topics and themes to help students access their prior knowledge and build on these existing ideas and experiences.

In reading, first grade students will be able to comprehend reading materials at grade level. They will read a variety of literary texts including different informational texts related to science and social studies. They will develop reading skills by strengthening their phonemic awareness to decode unknown words. In oral reading, they will work on reading fluency by phrasing accurately, reading with an understanding of punctuation, and reading at a good rate with a smooth flow. They will also build strong reading comprehension strategies to analyze texts in more detail including looking at character development, inferring and predicting, summarizing and drawing conclusions.

In listening, they will be exposed to a variety of literary texts that they need to listen to and answer comprehension questions afterwards.

In speaking, they will practice retelling stories and texts read, heard, or viewed in class, capturing major story events, main ideas, and supporting details.

In writing, students will learn about the appropriate steps of the writing process, developing written work through the prewriting and planning, drafting, proofreading and revising, and publishing the final copy. Throughout this process, attention is given to using appropriate grammar and writing mechanics including capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Handwriting skills like consistency of letter formation and spacing will also be taught to ensure the legibility of their writing pieces.

First grade students will also be introduced to basic grammar and language skills to equip them to be better writers. Students learn about basic sentence structures and parts of speech like nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, prepositional phrases, and subject-verb agreements. They will look closely at different parts of a sentence and learn how to use each part correctly in their writing. They will also learn vocabulary building by adding prefixes and suffixes to base words.



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## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester/school year, (SWAT) Students will be able to:

- Read different literary texts with fluency and comprehension.
- Listen and comprehend spoken texts or stories.
- Retell stories/texts with complete details.
- Produce their own pieces of writing like personal narratives, poems, opinion essays, letters, etc.

## PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Ada, A. F., Beers, K., Campoy, F. I., Carrol, J. A., Clemens, N., Cunningham, A. ... Washington, J. (2020). *Houghton Mifflin Into Reading Grade 1*. Orlando, Florida: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- Houghton Mifflin Into Reading Know It, Show It Grade 1. (2020). Orlando, Florida: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- Houghton Mifflin Into Reading Grammar Practice Workbook Grade 1. (2020). Orlando, Florida: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

## GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

Students will take quizzes and quarter exams to assess their content knowledge. The assessments will provide students with feedback to determine whether the Common Core standards learning objectives have been met. Students absent from class for a quiz or test will be required to take it some other time.

Every quarter, each student will receive grades based on the following criteria:

- ☞ 30% Classwork, Homework, Class participation
- ☞ 30% Quizzes
- ☞ 30% Quarterly Exams
- ☞ 10% Deportment (behavior in class based on the school's SLOs)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please always check Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

**Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.**



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## First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<b>Week 1</b> (August 12 to 15) <u>4 days of class</u> 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	<b>Back to school activities</b> <b>Beginning of Year Phonics Assessments</b>
<b>Week 2</b> (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	<b>Into Reading Module 1</b> Texts: Try This Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ask and Answer Questions, Author's Purpose Phonics: Consonants m,s t,b ; Short a
<b>Week 3</b> (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	<b>Into Reading Module 1</b> Texts: My School Trip Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Author's Purpose, Make Inferences Phonics: Consonants n,d,p,c /k/; Short a
<b>Week 4</b> (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	<b>Into Reading Module 1</b> Texts: Big Dilly's Tale, (I'm Me) Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ask and Answer Questions Phonics: Consonants r,f,s /z/; Short i
<b>Week 5</b> (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	<b>Into Reading Module 2</b> Texts: Dan Had a Plan Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Retell, Sequence of Events Phonics: Consonants g,k; Review Short a,i Grammar: Common Nouns: People, places animals and things Writing: <b>Sequencing</b> <i>Reader's theater selection of script</i>
<b>Week 6</b> (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	<b>Into Reading Module 2</b> Texts: Places in My Neighborhood Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Text Features, Make Connections Phonics: Consonants l,h; Short o; Review Short a, i, o Grammar: Proper Nouns: people, places, animals, and things Writing: <b>Sequencing</b> <i>Reader's theater discussion about the story</i>
<b>Week 7</b> (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of	<b>Into Reading Module 2</b> Texts: Who Put the Cookies in the Cookie Jar? Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ask and Answer Questions



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Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26-Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	Phonics: Consonants w, j, y, v; Short u; Review Short i,o,u Grammar: Action verbs Writing: <b>Sequencing</b> <i>Reader's theater discussion about the story</i>
<b>Week 8</b> (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	<b>Exam Review</b> <b>Quarter 1 Exam</b>
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	

## Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
<b>Week 1 (11)</b> (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	<b>Into Reading Module 3</b> Texts: The Nest Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ask and Answer Questions, Story Structure Phonics: Consonants qu, x, z; Short e; Review short e, i, o, u Grammar: Adjectives of Size and Shape, Articles Writing: <b>Descriptive paragraph</b> <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading all the words correctly</i>
<b>Week 2 (12)</b> (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	<b>Into Reading Module 3</b> Texts: Blue Bird and Coyote Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ask and Answer Questions, Story Structure Phonics: Double Final Consonants; Consonants ck /k/ Grammar: Adjectives: Color and Number Writing: <b>Descriptive paragraph</b> <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading all the words correctly</i>
<b>Week 3 (13)</b> (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	<b>Into Reading Module 3</b> Texts: Step-by-Step Advice From the Animal Kingdom! Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Text Features, Retell Phonics: Consonant Digraph sh; Review s, sh  Grammar: Adjectives: The Senses Writing: <b>Descriptive essay (Wonderful world)</b>



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	<i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading sentences with fluency</i>
<b>Week 4 (14)</b> <b>(November 3 to 7)</b> 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	<b>Into Reading Module 4</b> Texts: Goal! Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Evaluate details; cite text evidence Phonics: Consonant digraph ch; Review ch, sh Grammar: Complete Sentences Writing: Descriptive essay (Wonderful world) <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading sentences with fluency</i>
<b>Week 5 (15)</b> <b>(November 10 to 14)</b> 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	<b>Into Reading Module 4</b> Texts: Brontorina Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make and confirm predictions, retell the story Phonics: Consonant Digraphs th, wh; Trigraph -tch Grammar: Sentence parts Writing: Descriptive essay (Wonderful world) <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading sentences correctly</i>
<b>Week 6 (16)</b> <b>(November 17 to 21)</b> 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	<b>Into Reading Module 4</b> Texts: If You Plant a Seed Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make Connections Phonics: Initial Blends with s; Review sh, th, st Grammar: Statements and Commands Writing: Personal Narrative <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on reading sentences correctly</i>
<b>Week 7 (17)</b> <b>(November 24 to 28)</b> 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	<b>Into Reading Module 5</b> Texts: The Black Rabbit Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make inferences, understand characters Phonics: Initial blends with l; Review st, sl, fl, cl Grammar: Questions and Exclamations Writing: Informational Text (How to make a friend) <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on attentiveness in delivering one's part</i>
<b>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</b>	
<b>Week 8 (18)</b> <b>(December 1 to 5)</b> 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day	<b>Into Reading Module 5</b> Texts: The Best Seasons Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make connections Phonics: Initial blends with r; Compound Words Grammar: Compound Questions and statements Writing: Descriptive writing review <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on attentiveness in delivering one's part</i>
<b>Week 9 (19)</b> <b>(December 8 to 12)</b> 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day)	<b>Exam Review</b> <b>Quarter 2 Exam</b>



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8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
8- Second Week of Advent  
10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion  
11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)

*December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)*

*December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break*

## Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
<b>Week 1 (20)</b> (January 5 to 9)  5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	<b>Into Reading Module 5</b> Texts: What Are You Waiting For? Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make and confirm predictions Phonics: Final Blends; Inflection -ed Grammar: Kinds of Sentences Writing: Personal Narrative – 321 Planner <i>Reader's theater practice focusing on delivering lines with correct intonation</i>
<b>Week 2 (21)</b> (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	<b>Into Reading Module 6</b> Texts: Monument City Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make and confirm predictions; elements of drama Phonics: Long e, i, o (CV); Possessives with 's Grammar: Subjects and Verbs Writing: Personal Narrative My Holiday Break <i>Reader's theater practice (practice performances)</i>
<b>Week 3 (22)</b> (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	<b>Into Reading Module 6</b> Texts: The Contest Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Ideas and Support, Evaluate Phonics: Long a (VCe); Soft c Grammar: Action Verbs Writing: Personal Narrative My Holiday Break <i>Reader's theater practice (practice performances)</i>
<b>Week 4 (23)</b> (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	<b>Into Reading Module 6</b> Texts: Hooray for Holidays Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Create mental images; Story Structure Phonics: Long i, o (VCe); Silent Letters kn, wr Grammar: Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases Writing: Personal Narrative My Holiday Break <i>Reader's theater practice (video recording)</i>
<b>Week 5 (24)</b> (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College	<b>Into Reading Module 7</b> Texts: Sam & Dave Dig a Hole Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make inferences; Point of View Phonics: Long u, e (VCe); Soft g (g, dge)



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<b>Prep</b> 6-7- SUA0 Recollection for MS	Grammar: Verbs and Time Writing: Poem (Acrostic) <i>Reader's theater (video recording)</i>
<b>Week 6 (25)</b> (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	<b>Into Reading Module 7</b> Texts: Handmade Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Text Organization Phonics: Long e (ea, ee); Short e (ea) Grammar: The Verb Be Writing: Personal Narrative (writing) <i>Reader's theater (video recording)</i>
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
<b>Week 7 (26)</b> (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	<b>IOWA Assessments</b> <b>Into Reading Module 7</b> Phonics: Long a (ai, ay); Contractions with 'm, 's, n't,, 'll Grammar: Names of Months, Days and Holidays <i>Reader's theater (winning group practice)</i>
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
<b>Week 8 (27)</b> (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	<b>Into Reading Module 8</b> Texts: Interrupting Chicken Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make connections, create mental images Phonics: Long o (oa, ow); Long o, i (oe,,ie), Long i (igh, y) Grammar: Future Tense Writing: Personal Narrative (final copy) <i>Reader's theater videos uploaded</i>
<b>Week 9 (28)</b> (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	<b>Exam Review</b> <b>Quarter 3 Exam</b>

#### Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<b>Week 1 (29)</b> (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	<b>Into Reading Module 8</b> Texts: The Grasshopper and the Ants Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make inferences Phonics: r-Controlled Vowel ar; Two Syllable Words (VCCV) Grammar: Subject Pronouns, Object Pronouns) <i>Readers Theater Final rehearsals</i>



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## March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair

<b>Week 2 (30)</b> (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	<b>Into Reading Module 9</b> Texts: So You Want to Grow a Taco? Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make inferences, Ask and Answer Questions Phonics: r-Controlled Vowels or, ore; Two-Syllable Words r-Controlled Vowels ar, or Grammar: The Pronouns I and Me, Possessive Pronouns Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project) <i>Reader's theater final competition</i>
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## March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break

<b>Week 3 (31)</b> (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	<b>Into Reading Module 9</b> Texts: Which Part Do We Eat? Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Elements of Poetry Phonics: r-Controlled Vowels er, ir, ur; Two Syllable Words (VCCV pattern) Grammar: Indefinite Pronouns Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project)
<b>Week 4 (32)</b> (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	<b>Into Reading Module 9</b> Texts: The Talking Vegetables Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Story Structure; retell Phonics: Final blends ng, nk; Inflection -ing Grammar: Contractions Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project)
<b>Week 5 (33)</b> (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	<b>Into Reading Module 10</b> Texts: Young Frank Architect Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Retell Phonics: Vowel pattern oo; Consonant +le, Vowel Patterns (oo, ou, ew, ue, u) Grammar: Adverbs Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project)
<b>Week 6 (34)</b> (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	<b>Into Reading Module 11</b> Texts: Sky Color, We Are the Future Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make Inferences Phonics: Diphthongs ow, ou; Diphthongs oy, oi Grammar: Adjectives that compare Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project presentations)

## May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday

<b>Week 7 (35)</b> (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	<b>Into Reading Module 12</b> Texts: Joaquin's Zoo, Marconi and the Radio Comprehension Skills and Strategies: Make Connections Phonics: Vowel patterns (aw, au, al); Inflections Grammar: Spelling Writing: Procedural Writing (Favorite food project presentations)
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<b>Week 8 (36)</b> <b>(May 11 to 15)</b> 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	<b>Review</b> <b>Quarter 4 exams</b>
<b>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students)</b> <b>Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</b>	
<b>Week 9 (37)</b> <b>(May 18 to 22)</b> 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	<b>End of Year Activities</b>
<b>Week 10 (38)</b> <b>(May 25 to 29)</b> 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting	<b>End of Year Activities</b>

*"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"*