

## Letter from Mrs. Duffy First Grade

June 2009

Dear Parents,

First grade is a wonderful year of growth for children and I am delighted to be sharing my 15<sup>th</sup> year, with your child. In 1975, I received dual credential certification in Elementary and Special Education from San Jose State. I have degrees in accounting, and secretarial skills. I also have been Catechetically Certified with the Diocese of Monterey and am Good Shepherd's Vice-Principal for grades K-4.

This year we will be learning lots of things and having some fun, too. As wonderful as first grade is, the start of the year may be a difficult transition for your child: desks, homework, shorter lunch times, reading, writing, spelling, math and the rest of our curriculum. I think it is helpful to practice skills over the summer so children don't forget all they have learned. I've listed some ideas so that you will know how you can help. This will make an easier transition and a big difference in your child's adjustment to first grade.

I will be checking my [e-mail](mailto:paduffy@gsschool.org) weekly over the summer. If you have questions, I am just a click away: [paduffy@gsschool.org](mailto:paduffy@gsschool.org). I am eager to help your child become an active Christian, a life-long learner and a globally aware moral leader!

Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you this fall in first grade.

See you in August,

*Patty Duffy*



**Good Shepherd Catholic School**  
2727 Mattison Lane  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

Phone: 831-476-4000  
Fax: 831-476-0948

## FIRST GRADE SUMMER HOMEWORK

1. Practice saying letter names and letter sounds in random order. (This is the prerequisite to reading.) Students should know most of their letter names and sounds before they enter first grade. If your child is having trouble, the “Phonics Game” is a fun way to learn the sounds. A free site that shows letters, says their names and sounds is [www.starfalls.com](http://www.starfalls.com). Once there click on “ABC’s let’s get ready to read”.
2. Practice printing upper and lower case letters in alphabetical order. **Do this 10 times** on first grade handwriting paper during the summer. Most letters start at “2 o’clock” or from the top down. The pencil usually does not come up or off the paper. See attached.
3. Practice printing upper and lower case letters in random order. Have someone say a letter and then print both the upper and lower case letter.
4. Practice for b/d confusion: Print a line of 8-10 letters changing the order each time. (e.g: b b d b d d b b b d d.) The child points and says letter name, child points and says letter sound. If the child makes a mistake start at the beginning of the line until the line is correct. The child will learn the correct name & sound in isolation and gradually apply it to words.
5. Practice counting to 100 and recognizing numbers. Bingo is a great game for number practice.
6. Practice writing numbers from 1 to 30. Do this 10 times on paper during the summer. **If your child turns the completed handwriting and math papers in during the first week of school, he/she can pick something from the prize box.**
7. Practice reading words from the lists that are attached. I suggest you put each word on a note card and practice reading them in random order. (I will be using the same lists the first weeks of school.)
8. There will be a spelling test the first week of school. The purpose is to introduce your child to the process of taking a test, listening for sounds, and writing the letters to form words. The words are: an, can, man, ran, had, dad, ant, lap, tag, pants.
9. Read to and with your child! See the attached reading list.

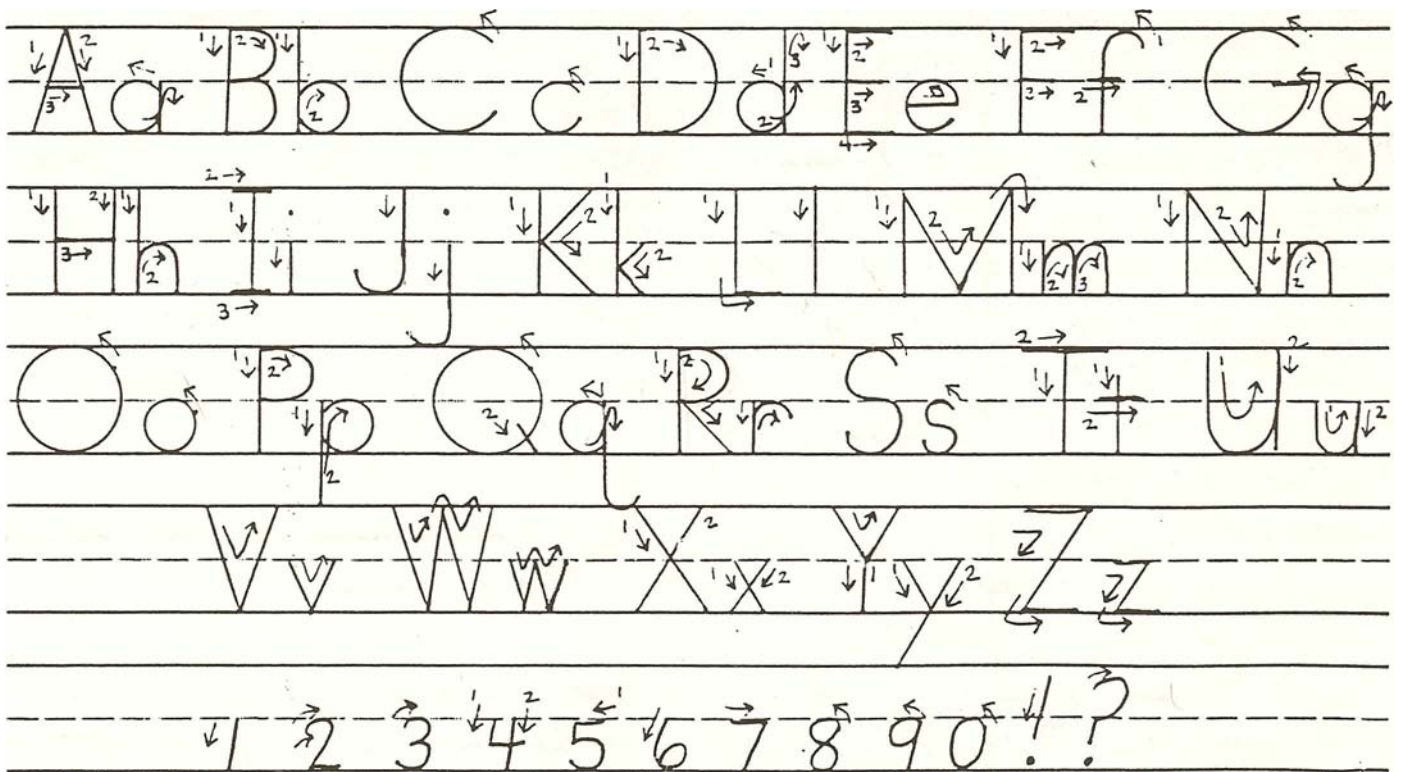
## How to Form Manuscript Letters

Most manuscript letters are made without lifting the pencil. The exceptions are the k, x, y, and of course the i, j, f, and t which have a dot or a cross added after the rest of the letter is formed.

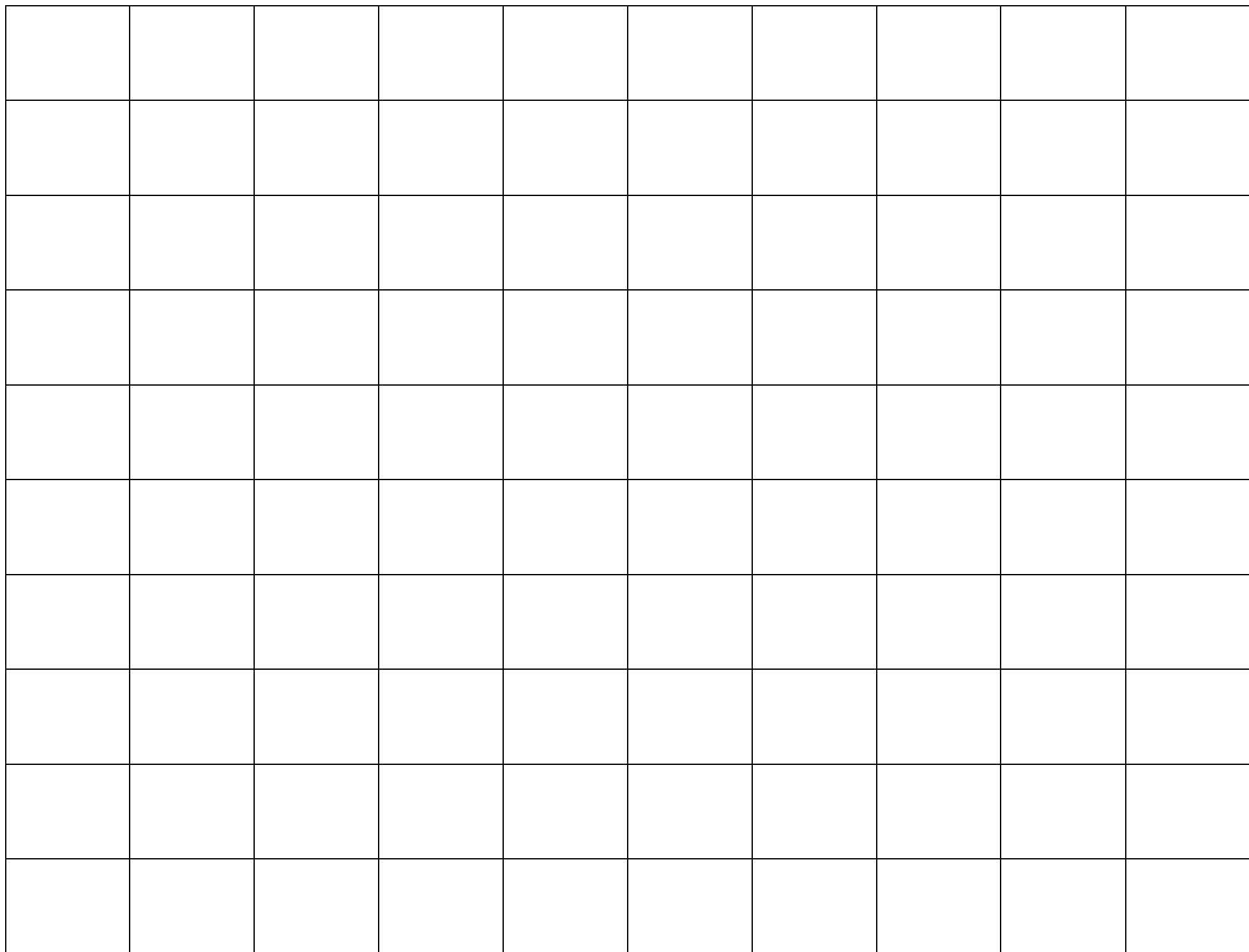
This continuous-line formation will allow for much easier carry over to cursive writing. It is difficult for arrows to indicate adequately the formation of the letter and the movement of the pencil. Just remember that most letters will be written without the pencil being lifted from the paper. Stress that most letters are started at the TOP!

Please watch your child write their letters and help them practice forming each letter correctly.

## Correct Manuscript Formation of Letters and Numbers



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



# Reading List A

## PP – Book 1

Consonant sounds	Vowel sounds	Sight words
m	a in cat	a
s	i in pig	
t	o in hot	go
n	u in cup	
x	e in pet	and
h		
d	Color words	of
w		
i	red	on
b		
c	yellow	was
j		
F	orange	Is - is
g		
p	green	It - it
r		
v	blue	the - The
y		
z	purple	in
k		
q	brown	for
i		
	black	yes
		no
		are

Reading List B  
PP – Book 1

Page 5	Page 13	Page 17
fan	jam	gas
mat	sad	nap
can	dam	bag
van	dad	cab
rat	ram	tag
pan	pad	sap
hat	mad	rag
cat	ham	cap
man		map
bat		

June 09

## GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

### Grade 1 – Fall 2009

Students are encouraged to read alone, or with a parent, at least **2 books** from the following list before the start of classes on August 20, 2009. We will be talking in class about our favorite books we read over the summer and why we liked them.

Title	Author
Baa-Choo	Weeks, Sarah
Bernstein Bears Series – any book	Bernstein, Stan and Jan
Bob Books Set #1 Beginning Reader	Scholastic Books
Cinderella	Anonymous
Clifford Series – any book	Bridwell, Norman
Dr. Seuss Series – any book	Seuss, Dr.
Footprints in the Snow	Benjamin, Cynthia
Goose on the Loose	Rogers, Jacqueline
Harry and the Lady Next Door	Zion, Gene
Hello Reader Series	Any book - Level 1 or Level 2
If I Ran the Rain Forest	Worth, Bonnie
Junie B., First Grader Aloha-ha-ha!	Park, Barbara
Little Red Ridding Hood	Anonymous
Make way for Ducklings	McCloskey, Robert
No is NO Si is Yes	Galan, Ana
Oh, the Thinks you can Think!	Seuss, Dr.
Sharks!	By the Editors of TIME for Kids
Some Pig	White, E.B.
The High-Rise Private Eyes	Rylant, Cynthia
The Three Billy Goats Gruff	Anonymous
There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly	Taback, Simms
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?	Jenkins, Steve & Robin Page

Or any book that your child can read and interests him or her.

