

## 1GRD DoAheads

There are plenty of things you can do to get a jump on next year. This checklist follows the organization on the Primary Grades webpage. All underlined titles are buttons. If you want editable versions, go to [littleschoolhouseinthesuburbs.com/editable](http://littleschoolhouseinthesuburbs.com/editable).

### Get Your Bearings

- Read the Intro to 1GRD**. I'm on my fifth round teaching K and I still refer back to it.
- Print these Do-Aheads**. I have no idea why I didn't make these printable before!

### Gather Supplies

- Print the 1GRD Supply List**. I keep mine in my grade-level book box. I dump *everything* into that box as I find, order, or print it. I only check off what's *sitting in the box*. I often take all summer and into the fall to gather everything.
- Read the Blank Books post** and decide. I use the Bare Books 6x8.
- Old Bookless Science Plans**: Write "weekly nature walk" in your mom notebook. It's assumed, but not explicitly assigned.
- New MoDG Book Plans: Print the \*New\* 2GRD Science** list. Start gathering.

### Religion

- Check out my generic liturgical calendar** or if you already have the syllabi, email me for the one with all the MoDG books scheduled. Use the calendar to make smart book buying decisions. Notice how MANY books are during Tgiving, Xmas, Spring, and Summer breaks.
- Print the Savary By Date**. It's Children's Book of Saints. The real TOC is a pain.
- Look at the 1GRD Catechism printable**. It's unnecessary, but handy.
- Check out our 1GRD Mass Book example**. See if you like it. Print the resources.

### Math

- Say aloud "Abeka will get HARD in 2nd grade if we don't already know our math facts."** Waiting until 2GRD to learn math facts makes Abeka miserable. The worksheets take FOREVER, because they assume so much is already automatic.\*
- Remember that Speed Drills are for already learned facts**. You can use them any way you like, but just FYI.
- Read my 1GRD 90/10 Manual**: It will totally save your sanity.
- Pass an eye over the 1GRD Detail Drills post**. They're OVERKILL, but mimic the Abeka manual regardless of what edition of the workbook you use.

\*I use Teaching Textbooks 3 *online* now in 2nd grade. NO prior memory work needed.

## Literature

- ❑ **Say aloud, “It doesn’t matter how many books we read as long as it’s all *good stuff!*”**  
Don’t try to “get through” the book list. Formation is not about comprehensive content, just QUALITY content. If the book is GOOD, read it as many times as you like. Measure success in minutes per day, not # of titles completed.
- ❑ **Check out the 1GRD Lit Plan and 1GRD BOV Plan (Book of Virtues).** From the school resources, it’s clear that Berquists didn’t rigidly stratify by grade-level for read alouds, just divided into bigs and littles. If you have multiple K-2 kids going, do not make yourself crazy trying to keep them separate. Laura only stratified by grade because parents kept asking.

## Reading and Spelling

- ❑ **Read the Reading Overview.** Decide what you think of it.
- ❑ **Understand the limits of 100EZ.** It’s genius at teaching blending and sound isolation and other hard-to-teach skills, but not phonograms and sight words.
- ❑ **Memorize these words: TEAM READING.** At a certain point, the lesson plans tell you to have them read an easy reader. He can’t unless he learned things outside the 100EZ lessons. To gather more phonograms and put sight words (advanced phonogram and rule words he can’t possibly navigate) in his visual memory, I highly recommend *repetitive TEAM READING* of Little Angel Readers or Faith and Freedom Readers or whatever.
- ❑ **Somewhere on your Mom notebook, write “Beginning, Middle, and End”** That’s the language arts focus this year. A Very Hungry Caterpillar made up example would be this: “The egg hatches and the caterpillar is really, really hungry. All week, he eats foods that aren’t for caterpillars. He feels sick. Then he eats a nice, green leaf. He feels better. Then he becomes a butterfly.” Last year we just wanted ANY facts and in the right order.

## Poetry

- ❑ **Print the 1GRD Poetry.** Stick it in your mom notebook. You don’t need the *Harp and Laurel Wreath* now.

## Art & Music

- ❑ **Decide how to store supplies.** In our house, it’s called the “Nazi Box.” Remember the “Soup Nazi” from Seinfeld? That’s me with art and science supplies. “No tape for you!” I put all the science and art supplies in a box and *no one can touch it*. If you use up the “house” glue sticks, do NOT come thieve the one I need for timelines! “No glue for you!”
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Check out my Art Folders post.** See what you think.
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Go ahead and cut out your art cards.** I think the pdf that now comes to enrolled folks says to toss out Miro and Chagall. I can’t remember if anything else is ugly. If the whole beautiful/ugly thing is as confusing to you as it was me, google up the Prager U Modern Art video. It helps.
- ❑ **Old Book (Jemison) Plans: Check out my K-2 GRD Hymn Links** or upload your CD to itunes and play it from there. Also, my kids don’t love the singer’s voice. The links are more beautiful. If you can carry a tune, you’ll quickly ditch the CD anyway.
- ❑ **Remember that evening music time in the sample schedule is NOT the 1 min hymn.** Berquists listened to Classical music before bed. I don’t know why it’s still in there if they aren’t going to explain it or assign anything.